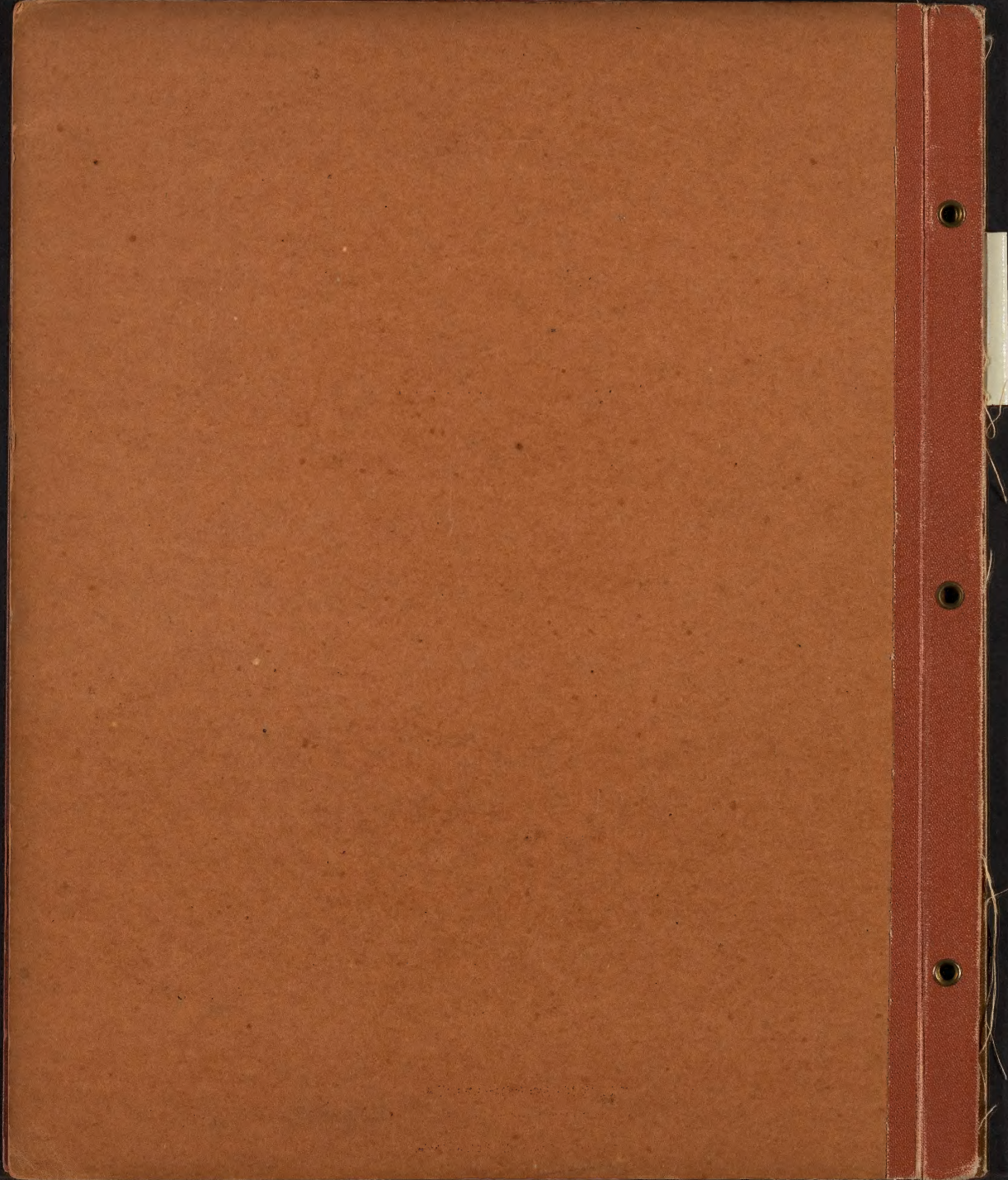


Journal 1900
Jan - May

FROM
WILLIAM BREWSTER,
145 BRATTLE ST.,
CAMBRIDGE, - MASS.



All the systematic notes
in this volume have been
margin-indexed and
checked for copying by W. B.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

January. The month of January has been remarkably mild and open. The lowest records of temperature, taken at 8 A.M. and 1 P.M., were 5° at 8 A.M. on the 4th, 10° at 8 A.M. on the 9th, and 14° at 8 A.M. on the 2nd, 3rd, 11th, 24th and 27th. At 7 A.M. on the 30th and at 6 P.M. on the 26th the mercury also stood at 14°. With these exceptions the temperature was never below 20°. The highest points were 55° on the 19th, 52° on the 23rd 48° on the 22nd, 45° on the 19th and 20th, and 44° on the 16th and 23rd, all at 1 P.M. 13 days have been clear while rain fell on the 11th, 12th, 16th, 20th, 25th, 28th and 29th. Rain on seven days in January is very unusual and this fact, combined with the light snow fall has kept the ground very open.

The first snow storm of the winter occurred on Jan. 1st when about ten inches of dry fine snow fell. A rapid thaw on the 5th spoiled the sleighing and on the 8th the streets were bare though snow lay in patches in the more sheltered spots. The second snow storm was on the 11th, about two inches falling followed by a heavy rain that took it almost entirely away. A little snow fell on the 13th, 14th and 28th with small flurries on the 24th and 31st. This is the record of the January snow.

1900.

January. Of irregular winter visitors from the North we have had (No.2) with us during the present month White-winged Crossbills in unprecedented numbers (apparently the great flight which passed us in November returned early in January), a very few Red Crossbills, fair numbers of Redpolls (all so far as identified linaria) and Pine Siskins, and very many Red-bellied Nuthatches. Pine Grosbeaks have been reported from the northern part of Worcester County but none have been seen near Boston since December. There has been no well-marked flight of Goshawks or Snowy Owls, and no Gyrfalcons, Richardson's Owls or Hawk Owls have been taken, while Saw-whet Owls appear to have been scarcer than usual. Cedar Birds have been numerous through the month. Large flocks were seen in Cambridge on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th, and Mr.G.M.Allen saw a flock of 180 at Arlington Heights on the 31st. Robins have been nearly or quite absent, Juncos, Song Sparrows and Tree Sparrows in about their usual numbers, Northern Shrikes exceptionally scarce (I have heard of only one - seen at Fresh Pond by Mr.G.M.Allen on the 31st).

At Dedham on the 6th Dr.A.L.Reagh saw a flock of 20 or 30 Purple Finches and about an equal number of Myrtle Warblers, the latter feeding on bay berries.

At Ipswich Dr.C.W.Townsend saw immense numbers of Snow

1900.

January. Buntings (upwards of 500 he thinks) on the 14th and between (No.3) 100 and 200 on the 21st. On both dates he observed about fifty Horned Larks, and on the 21st his companion, Dr. Joseph L. Goodale saw a fine adult Marsh Hawk skimming over the sand dunes. Gulls and Whistlers have frequented the Charles River Basin whenever it has been free from ice, but the Whistlers have been less numerous there than usual. Walter Deane saw over 300 Gulls and 24 Whistlers there on the 15th.

The following birds were observed in the gardenⁿ about the house during the month:-

1. Parus atricapillus. Seen only on the 11th, 18th, 19th, 25th, 27th and 29th in numbers varying from one to four. Only on the 11th and 18th did they visit the suet on the crab apple tree. They have evidently not been hard pressed for food during this mild month. On the 27th with the mercury at 24° one sang the phoebe note.
2. Sitta carolinensis. One seen and heard on the 18th.
3. Certhia f. fusca. One seen on the 10th and 18th, and one heard on the 19th and 24th.
4. Regulus satrapa. One heard on the 10th and seen on the 18th and 23th.
5. Ampelis cedrorum. A single bird was seen on the 12th and 18th. On the 19th a flock of 36 appeared in the morning

1900.

January.

(No.4)

and stayed four or five hours. They spent much of the time feeding on the fruit of the Parkman's apple tree in the middle of the garden and on the High Bush Cranberry at the N.E. corner of the Museum. I saw one bird pass a cranberry to another. The recipient swallowed it.

6. Passer domesticus. Present all through the month, occasionally attacking the suet in spite of the fact that they have been driven away every time they have been seen near it.

7. Spizella monticola. One seen on the 10th.

8. Corvus americanus. Crows were seen either in the lindens or flying over the place on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 25th.

9. Cyanocitta cristata. One heard screaming on the 6th.

10. Dryobates p. medianus. A male in rich plumage visited the garden on twelve days between the 11th and 31st, and almost invariably fed on the suet in the crab apple tree. A female was seen on the 22nd, 24th, 30th and 31st. She did not visit the suet but spent her time vigorously hammering on the neighboring trees in search of food. Once she flew into the crab apple tree within three feet of the suet but she seemed unconscious of its presence and spent fully five minutes drilling into a piece of

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

January. rotten wood in a fork of the tree.

(No.5) 11. Colaptes auratus luteus. A male seen on the 13th.

1900.

February. The month opened clear and cold, the mercury registering on the first three days at 8 A.M. 8° , 7° and 12° respectively. After that the temperature rose and between the 3rd and 18th, 24° was the lowest record taken at 8 A.M., 1 P.M. and 6 P.M., at which times readings were taken daily with but few exceptions. The highest point reached by the mercury was 58° at 1 P.M. on the 13th. There was a warm spell in the middle of the month, the temperature on the 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 13th not falling below 36° . The weather grew colder during the latter half of the month and at 6.30 A.M. on the 27th it registered -3° . This was the coldest day of the winter.

Clear and cloudy days with rain have alternated with each other. Ten days were clear while rain fell on seven days. There were a few light snow flurries during the month but on the 17th and 18th occurred the second snow storm of any size during the entire winter, about 10 inches of fine dry snow covering the ground. Owing to the rain of the 22d, 23d and 24th, however, in one week the snow had entirely disappeared. The month closed with cloudy weather, the mercury standing at 7° in the early morning at 7.30.

1900.

February. White-winged Crossbills, whose occurrence within our
(No.2) vicinity in such remarkable numbers was noted in the record
for January, have still been reported in every direction.
Not only have they been observed in our immediate neighborhood
but Mr.A.C.Bent stated on the 19th that he had seen them al-
most daily in Taunton up to that time, and Mr.G.C.Shattuck
found them at Albany Intervale, New Hampshire, between the 14th
and 19th. Red Crossbills have been reported from Newton Lower
Falls and Weston, each time in company with White-wings. Pine
Grosbeaks have been seen in Concord and Bedford in small num-
bers, and Mr.R.H.Howe saw a flock of 40 in Groton on the 11th.

The Cedar Birds are certainly holding their own for on
the 17th Mr.George C.Deane saw at Arlington Heights in the
space of 15 minutes 505 flying over the road in flocks vary-
ing from 4 to 15. Redpolls were seen in Brookline and Win-
chester on the 24th. Bluebirds have appeared, one having been
seen in Concord on the 4th, an early record for that place,
and two in the Parkway on the 16th. Canada Nuthatches were
seen in Belmont on the 10th by Mr.O.A.Lothrop. A flock of 25
Robins, seen in Waltham by Mr.Lothrop on the 10th, was evi-
dently an arrival from the South. Fresh Pond was open on the
16th and from 30 to 40 Black Ducks were seen there by George
C.Deane. On the 4th I saw a Kingfisher by Charles River near

1900.

February. the Cambridge - Watertown line.

(No. 3) . Walter Deane visited Norton's Woods on the 3rd to see a Barred Owl that had been spending some weeks there. It was in the late afternoon and the bird was sitting in one of the pines some 25 or 30 feet above the ground. Its dusky coloring amid the dense foliage of the tree rendered it very inconspicuous. As dusk approached it noiselessly sailed away a few hundred feet, alighting on a dead branch whence it soon resumed its course from tree to tree. Dr. Walter Faxon who was with him picked up a pellet from under the tree where the Owl had been spending the day and he found on examination that it contained the skull of an English Sparrow. This species has doubtless been its principal food during its stay here.

But six species of birds, exclusive of the ever-present English Sparrow, visited the garden during the month and the visits of all these were infrequent, excepting those of the male Downy Woodpecker. He remained faithful to the lump of suet in the crab apple tree. Following is the list:-

1. Regulus satrapa. Two seen on the 4th.
2. Parus atricapillus. In strong ^{contrast} with February of last year, but a single bird was observed in the garden on the 1st, 6th and 10th. One sang the phoebe note on the 1st with the mercury between 2° and 17°.

1900.

February. 3. Passer domesticus. Present daily.

(No.4) 4. Corvus americanus. Crows either lit in the lindens or flew over the place on the 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 11th, 16th and 20th.

5. Dryobates p. medianus. On 17 days the male Downy was seen, when he regularly visited the suet. The female was seen only on the 6th and 19th. She was hunting for grubs as in January without touching the suet.

6. Colaptes auratus luteus. Two males fed on the Parkman's apples on the 2nd. A single bird was observed on the 3rd, 4th, 8th and 20th.

7. Megascops asio. Mr. Roland Hayward saw one at 8.30 P.M. flying from the Catalpa to the cedar at the North-West end of the house.

1900.

March.

March has kept up its reputation as a chilly, disagreeable month. The temperature has been quite even, averaging 24° at its lowest point, and 45° at its highest. 6° on the 12th was the lowest record, and 58° on the 19th the highest. Cloudy and clear days have followed each other through the month, and but few days have been free from wind, the prevailing direction being West and North-West. Snow fell only on the 5th, 8th, 15th and 26th with a slight flurry on the 31st, but the small amount, never exceeding 2 inches, rapidly disappeared.

Yellow crocuses and snowdrops appeared on the 8th in the bed in front of the Museum, and on the 10th a few squills were in bloom. The flowers came up rapidly after this, and the bed was well filled with crocuses of various colors, pure white snowdrops and the deep blue squills, toward the end of the month.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March.

(No.2)

Birds have been reported in large numbers this month both from Cambridge and the vicinity. Mr.H.B.Bigelow saw 50 Red-polls at Cohasset on the 17th and they were also seen in Cambridge on the 8th. A Bluebird was observed at Fresh Pond on the 9th and two were seen in Sudbury on the 10th. Four were noted in Longwood and one was heard in Waverly on the 10th. The Song Sparrows are here now in great numbers. 13 were seen at Fresh Pond on the 19th by Mr.G.M.Allen, and Walter Deane saw and heard them singing continuously on the 25th over a large extent of Fresh Pond swamps. On the same day he heard a Northern Shrike singing in a clump of low willows near Alewife Brook. But few Shrikes have been reported this winter. Robins have begun to appear in our gardens. One was seen in Hubbard Park on the 27th and Mr.H.B.Bigelow saw them in Cohasset on the 17th. Bronzed ^{Grackles} were observed in Cambridge on the 25th, 27th and 30th, and Rusty Grackles were noted at Fresh Pond on the 19th. Red-winged Blackbirds were seen in Waverly on the 10th by Mr.O.A.Lothrop. Canada Nuthatches were still here on the 30th, one being seen on Reservoir Street. On the 25th Walter Deane saw by Fresh Pond an American Rough-legged Hawk harried by five Crows high up overhead. It was a large ^{bird} and showed clearly a white rump.

Black Ducks have doubtless been in Fresh Pond continuously

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March. through the month for they have been reported as follows:-
(No.3) 50 on the 3rd by W.Deane, 31 on the 9th by W.Deane, 28 on the 19th by G.M.Allen, and 124 on the 25th by W.Deane. On the 9th and 25th Walter Deane saw a pair of Mallards on Fresh Pond in company with the Black Ducks. They are doubtless the same birds seen on November and December last.

White-winged Crossbills have been steadily reported, and the flight of this species has been so extraordinary that a list of all the available records for this region, with a few notes from farther localities, is here appended. A list of records for the Red Crossbill and the Pine Grosbeak is also added.

Loxia leucoptera.

1899.

Nov.6. Flocks of 2 and 30, Barrett^{Farm}, Concord, W.Brewster.

" 7.	Heard once.	Concord,	" "
" 8.	" "	" "	" "
" 9.	" "	" "	" "
" 11.	" "	" "	" "
" 20.	Small flocks ,	Arlington Heights,	G.M.Allen.
" "	Seen at	Scarboro, N.Y. by	Abbott H.Thayer.
" 21.	Two flocks seen,	Concord,	W.Brewster.
" 23.	" "	heard,	" "
" 25.	Flock of 5 in	Norway Spruce, Wellesley,	" "

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March. Loxia leucoptera (continued).

- (No. 4) Nov. 25. Flock of 7, Fresh Pond Grove, Walter Faxon.
 " " 3 at Cohasset, G.M.Allen.
 " 28, 29, 30. Feeding in hemlocks and Norway Spruces,
 West Roxbury, F.H.Allen.
 " 30. Flight call heard near Payson Park, W.Brewster.
 " 29. " " " , Fresh Pond Grove, " "

- Dec. 3. One in Cambridge, G.M.Allen.
 " 9. Flight call heard in the Garden, W.Brewster.
 " " Six, Brattle St., W.Deane.
 " 10. One, Sparks St. G.C.Deane.
 " 17. Seen in Brookline, R.H.Howe.
 " 22.-Jan. 2. Very abundant, Albany Intervale, N.H.
 " *Very abundant on N. slopes of Mt. Monadnock, N.H. a few days before Christmas. No L. leucoptera seen.* G.C.Shattuck.
 " 20. 50 to 100, majority ad. males, West Roxbury, C.E. Bailey.
 A.L.Reagh.

1900.

- Jan. 11. 12 to 14, Observatory Grounds, Cambridge, G.M.Allen.
 " 12. Ten shot at Milton by John McKenzie.
 " 14. One in dooryard, Cambridge, C.F.Batchelder.
 " 21. Flock of six, Craigie St., Cambridge, W.Brewster.
 " " Common at Ipswich, flying over sand dunes,
 C.W.Townsend.
 " 24. Flock of 7 or 8, Concord, female against the house.
 Miss Marion B.Keyes.

1900.

March. Loxia leucoptera (continued).

(No. 5) Jan 24 - Feb. 19. Seen almost daily at Taunton, A.C. Bent.

" 25. Eleven shot at Milton (skinned by M.A. Frazar) by
John McKenzie.

" 28. Eight males and eighteen females seen in Fresh Pond
Grove, W. Deane.

" 31. A male and a female seen in Norton's Woods,
H.A. Purdie.

" " Four, Arlington Heights, G.M. Allen.

Feb. 19. Two, Oxford St., Cambridge, G.M. Allen.

" 8. Large flock flying over, calling, Botanic Gardens,
Cambridge, W. Deane.

" " One or two at Newton Lower Falls. feeding on the
ground in chicken yard, with five L. c. minor,
H.A. Purdie.

" 14. One female killed against the house, Milton,

" 15. " " " " " " "

" 27. " male " " " " "

These three Milton records reported by

Dr. G.G. Kennedy who sent the birds to me in the flesh.

He said that the species had been abundant in Milton
during the month.

" 14 -19. Comparatively few, Albany Intervale, N.H.,
G.C. Shattuck.

" 19. Almost daily during the month, Taunton, A.C. Bent.

" 20. 32 Observatory grounds, Cambridge - W. Brewster.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March. Loxia leucoptera (concluded).

- (No. 6) Feb. 23. Large flock by her house, Concord, and a flock of
30 or more at Miss Hudson's, Concord,
Miss M.B. Keyes.
- " 25. Six females with four male Red Crossbills, Weston,
H.V. Greenough.
- Mar. 4. One, Cambridge, C.F. Batchelder.
- " 10. Ten seen in Brookline, H.B. Bigelow.
- " 17. Five or six seen in Weston, R.H. Howe.
- " Very numerous about Winchendon, Mass.
- " 26 a ^{early part of month,} ~~small flock seen at~~ ^{Portland, Conn.} ~~minor.~~ C.F. Bailey.
Loxia c. minor. J. H. Soper.

1899.

- Nov. 20. Flock of 15 flying over the Garden, W. Brewster.
- " " Two, Arlington Heights, G.M. Allen.
- " 23. One " " " " "
- Dec. 15. One in his backyard, Marlboro St., Boston,
A.P. Chadbourne.

1900.

- Jan. Observed in Taunton, A.C. Bent.
- " 6. One, Cambridge, G.M. Allen.
- " 15. " " " " "

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March. Loxia c. minor (concluded).

- (No. 7) Feb. Observed in Taunton, A.C. Bent.
- " Two or three small flocks about Providence,
H.S. Hathaway.
- " 3. three males and two females in chicken yard with
one or two L. leucoptera, Newton Lower Falls,
H.A. Purdie.
- " 11. One, Mt. Auburn, " " "
- Pinicola*
s. canadensis { " 20. "Flock of eight in mountain ash by my window"
Concord. Miss Grace Keyes.
- " 21. Ten or twelve, two males among them,
Bedford common, Bedford, C.W. Jenks.
- " 22. Seven or eight on Norway spruces, W. Medford,
H.A. Purdie.

Pinicola c. canadensis.

1899.

- Nov. 23. One heard many times at Barrett Farm, Concord,
W. Brewster.

Dec. 2. Flock of five, all with plumage of female, Cohasset,
" 22 - Jan. 2. Common, Albany Intervale, N.H., H.B. Bigelow.

1900. G.C. Shattuck, - 3

Feb. 19. Forty, Groton, R.H. Howe.

" 14 - 19. A few, Albany Intervale, N.H., G.C. Shattuck.

Mar. 4. Three, Wayland, C.J. Paine.

1900.

March.

(No. 8)

The following birds were observed in the garden or about the house during the month:-

1. Merula migratoria. One seen on the 27th.
2. Parus atricapillus. One seen on the 21st, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st. The suet has had almost no attraction for the Chickadees the past winter, while their occurrence in the garden has been quite rare as compared with last year. This is readily accounted for by the exceptionally mild winter, making food easily obtainable, while possibly they have been enticed away by suet or meat bones hung out in the neighborhood by other bird lovers.
3. Ampelis cedrorum. On the 2nd and 3rd a flock of 15 visited the garden and fed greedily on the Parkman's apples and the High Bush Cranberries. On the 6th a flock of 12 flew overhead, and on the 22nd another flock of 15 passed over.
4. Astragalinus tristis. 3 birds appeared in the crab apple tree on the 3rd. On the 21st and 22nd there was a male singing in the garden. He was in the dark plumage.
5. Passer domesticus. Present throughout the month, especially about the Museum where they have located themselves in the vines that grow on the walls.
6. Melospiza fasciata. One seen on the 26th.

1900.

March.

(No.9) 7. Passerella iliaca. Two on the 23rd, scratching in the garden. One was also seen on the 25th and 26th.

8. Quiscalus g. aeneus. One on the 24th.

9. Corvus americanus. On 23 days Crows have been on the place always either in the trees or flying over. On the 23rd a flock of 8 passed high overhead towards the North-East. They were evidently migrating.

10. Cyanocitta cristata. 3 were seen together in the lilacs on the 25th, and one was screaming on the 30th.

11. Dryobates p. medianus. The pair of Downy Woodpeckers have been constantly present through the month and they have probably been in the garden every day. The male was noted on 21 days when as usual he fed on the suet. The female was seen on 19 days. She found her way at last to the suet in the early part of the month and visited it as regularly as the male. The lump of suet was about 2 by 4 by 6 inches in size and is covered with a piece of wire netting to keep the Gray Squirrels from taking it off. The Grays have taken a little and the Chickadees a few small morsels, but the main work has been done by the male Downy through the winter, and the female Downy in March.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

- March. 12. Colaptes auratus luteus. A male was seen on the 2nd. A
(No.10) pair sat in one of the apple trees on the 8th, the male
shouting the spring call. One was heard shouting also
on the 13th, 23rd and 25th.
13. Larus a. smithsonianus. A flock of 5 flew over toward
Fresh Pond on the 29th.

1900.

March 24

C. E. Bailey called this afternoon. As usual he had many interesting things to tell one of which the following seem worthy of record:-

C. E. Bailey's
notes.

Lophia leucophaea. - While hunting Partridges on the northern slope of Mt. Monashee, N. H., a few days before Christmas (1899) Bailey found White-winged Crossbills in extraordinary numbers. In fact the whole region was simply alive with them. It would have been an easy matter, he says, to have collected one hundred specimens in a single day. They were feeding chiefly in hemlocks, or on the ground under them. Some of the flocks contained fifty or more birds each. He saw no Red Crossbills among them.

Remarkable
abundance of
White-winged
Crossbills

Early in March they were also very numerous about Winchendon, Mass.

Pinicola enervator. - Pine Grosbeaks have been rather numerous all winter in the Winchendon region. Bailey has seen them about his house there during the early part of the present month. For the first time in his experience he has found this about (red) warbler in greater numbers than the female & young. He has seen no Grosbeaks in the region about Boston this year.

Pine Grosbeaks

Bonasa umbellus. - Bailey says that Partridges are getting very scarce in the Winchendon region altho' both hunting is down there. Ten years ago he could shoot 50 or 60 birds in a day. Now 10 or 12 are the usual number seen.

Decrease in
Partridges at
Winchendon.

1900

March 24
(222)

Lynx rufus. - The Bay Lynx first appeared in the Winchendon region a few years ago & has now become common there. With its appearance & increase the White Hares have diminished in numbers until they have reached the verge of extermination. Bailey has twice found the remains of White Hares which they have killed. He has shot them three Lynxes himself and in all he knows of our country there have been thirteen. They are usually killed by fox hunters. When started by the hounds they usually long sweep and never "tree" although they often take refuge in caves or crevices in ledges.

C. E. Bailey's
note.

Sciurus hudsonicus. - Bailey thinks that Red Squirrels are rapidly disappearing from Eastern Massachusetts. In the region about Boston they have been replaced almost everywhere, during the past ten years, by the Gray Squirrels. This accords with my own observations but Bailey's opinion has been much more extensive & thorough than mine, owing to his connection with the field work of the Gypsy mole Commission.

Sciurus carolinensis. - In the region about Boston Bailey finds Gray Squirrels most numerous in Brookline, Newton & Cambridge. They are increasing fast in the Winchendon Hills but there are not many in Cambridge.

Cambridge, Mass.

The Garden

1900

April 1-12

With the exception of the 3rd & 12th, which were cloudy with light rain, the first twelve days of April were all sunny and most of them brilliantly clear. Although the wind held pretty steadily at W. to N.W. the weather was rather warm for the season during the first week the highest temperature being 60° on the 2nd and 6th, while the thermometer rose above 50° on the 5th, 7th and 8th. On the morning of the 9th it fell to 28° and on the following morning to 26° while on both days a piercing north wind made the air chilly, even at noon.

I spent the above period at home seeing going beyond the limits of our grounds within which all the following birds were observed.

Mirula migratoria. - On March 27th I heard the first Robin of the season calling in Hubbard Park. One sang there in full, clear tones for about fifteen minutes on the evening of April 1st (7. Mr. Chapman tells me that Robins began singing at Englewood, N. J., on this same evening). The next evening I saw two birds together in the garden and heard others singing & calling in the distance. Since then they have been constantly present in about their normal numbers. They began singing in the early morning on the 3rd. It is truly delightful to hear their full, rich, clear notes rising above the din of the Thrush and the busy, ceaseless clamor of the House Sparrows, making the whole neighborhood ring & echo with melodious sound. And their higher calls and cheery laughter are scarcely less welcome than their songs. Indeed even it was

Robins

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

April 1-12 (Muscula nigrocyanea) for their voices and those of the
(no 2) Flickers there would be little in the way of bird
sounds to remind us dwellers in the city that
Spring is at hand, now that the Bluebirds, Song Sparrows
and Red-winged Blackbirds have nearly or quite ceased
to visit us, even during their migrations.

Garden Birds

Although the Robins have been running about on
our lawn ever since their first appearance I do not
think that they can as yet get accustomed to
for my men digging in the garden have found no
worms at a less depth than a foot or two. The
Robins would then digging operations with evident
interest and whenever they were down their work
the birds descend into the holes & eagerly devour
all the worms that have been uncovered.

Parus atricapillus. - Scarce a day has passed when the
clear phoe-bee call of the Chickadee has not been
heard in the garden. Usually there has been only a
single bird but on the 9th there were two together.

Amphispiza cedrorum. - A flock of 15 Cedar birds alighted
for a moment in a pine tree next a cedar on
the afternoon of the 9th. I heard others chirping
certain in or near the garden on the 11th.

Loxia c. minor. - Two Cross bills flew over me
on the 4th looking westward & coming to near
that I made out distinctly that they were
a ♂ & ♀.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900

April 1-12

Garden Birds

Spinus tristis. - On the 7th and again on the 11th I heard what appeared to be the full song of a Goldfinch. My wife was at home but I failed to get a sight of the bird.

Melospiza melodia. - Two Song Sparrows and a Fox Sparrow spent the 2nd in the garden feeding on chickweed seeds and vibrating into a concert of hundreds when disturbed. One of the Song Sparrows sang faintly and brokenly in the early evening, in full, loud tones just before sunset.

Junco hyemalis. - A single bird in the garden on the 6th, 8th and 11th.

Passerella iliaca. - The bird above mentioned was the only one noted in April. Later than June in March it was silent.

Melospiza alba. - One heard early in the morning of the 4th. I think it was flying over the place.

Louisiana g. alba. - Grackles have been seen nearly every day - and sometimes several times in a day - flying singly or in pairs over the garden always in either an easterly or westerly direction and passing, no doubt, between the breeding station in Boston's woods & those in Mr. Simons' pine on Tower's estate. On March 24th a fine old male alighted on the ground in the garden and rambled about over the flower beds but I have seen none there since we did they alight often in our grounds last spring.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900

Garden Birds.

Crows.

April 1-12. Corvus americanus. - Crows have visited us daily and at all hours alighting frequently in the lindens and apple trees and cawing loudly. They are so tame as to often permit us to walk directly under them.

On the 4th Walter Deane saw one stuck fast in an apple tree with a twig a foot long in its beak and fly off with it towards the west. The twig was certainly broken from the tree for the bird had nothing in its beak when it alighted. The next day at about 2 P.M.

Walter & I saw a Crow alight in the top of the tall apple tree at the north gate of the garden. Presently it began trying to break off twigs from a dead branch sitting them in its beak and wrenching & twisting with all its strength, sometimes flapping its wings to gain additional leverage. Some of the stouter twigs resisted its utmost efforts but it finally secured a big one (at least four or five) of rather small ones and flew off with them in the direction of Elmwood.

Dryobates pubescens. - The pair of Downy Woodpeckers Downy Woodpeckers have been unwearied in their visits to the tree which hangs in the crook of the tree by the museum window. They have usually appeared singly but twice we have seen the ♀ come when the ♂ was on the tree. On both occasions he crested his crest, half opened his wings and showed other unmistakable signs of displeasure at his partner's approach. On the first ^{occasion} the ♀ contented herself with pecking on a twig a foot or two away but on the second she alighted on the opposite side of the tree from the ♂ & fed for a moment under his nose and away.

Cambridge, Mass.

Garden Birds

1900.

April 1-12

Colaptes auratus. — A Flicker has visited and "thumped" in or near the garden almost daily and on the 10th I saw two birds together in the lindens.

We have not yet seen them visit the box where the pair nested last year and from their actions I fear they will not take possession of it this season.

Sciurus Carolinensis. — A pair of Gray Squirrels are evidently busying in a hole in the cork apple tree about halfway the north gate of the garden and I have little doubt that there is another nest in the big linden on the east end of the house.

Gray Squirrels

These Squirrels have been drinking maple sap daily since the middle of March. They have scarred the corken sides of most of the lower branches of the large hogs maple trees on either the driveway and these branches, as well as the trunk, are wet with the flowing sap which the Squirrels lap greedily. They have also dug up & eaten all the Oregon bulbs that were planted around the driveway circle. To be sure just past they have been to pines (and perhaps, cotton) all the flowers of the yellow crocuses in this bed now touching those of other colors although the different colors were everywhere intermingled but this is the first time that they have molested any of the bulbs. They have not as yet dug up any of the squills or snow drops which were planted among the crocuses.

Cambridge & Concord.

1900

April 16

Clear, calm & very warm for the season, especially in the afternoon.

Cambridge.

Spent the forenoon at Cambridge observing some changes that the men are making in the garden. ^{U. Bluebird} While thus engaged I heard the call of a ^{heard calling} Bluebird and looking up saw two of these birds flying ^{over the garden} rather high towards the N. W. I also saw a small flock (6 or 7) of Cedar Birds & heard a Goldfinch singing. No Purple Finches have been seen in the garden this spring although ^{these finches} ~~these finches~~ ^{are numerous} ~~are numerous~~ ^{in Belmont.} I fear they are merely a thing of the past in Cambridge for only a very few appeared this year.

Concord.

H. A. Parker and I took the 2 P. M. train for Concord. Gilbert, who had gone up by an earlier train, met us at North Bedford & ferried us across the river. The water is low for this season most of the Great Meadows being out.

At the cabin we found ^{Spring flowers} ~~flowers~~ ^{in fullest bloom} ~~in fullest bloom~~ ^{and a good many blossoms of} ~~and a good many blossoms of~~ ^{Claytonia opened.} ~~Claytonia opened.~~ ^{Birds.} ~~Birds.~~ ^{Soon after our arrival a Phoebe & a Pine Warbler} ~~Soon after our arrival a Phoebe & a Pine Warbler~~ ^{begon singing near the cabin.} ~~begon singing near the cabin.~~ ^{Several Robins &} ~~Several Robins &~~ ^{Song Sparrows were flitting along the path.} ~~Song Sparrows were flitting along the path.~~ ^{A Bluebird flew over warbling & we heard Red-wings in the distance.} ~~A Bluebird flew over warbling & we heard Red-wings in the distance.~~ ^{Frogs.} ~~Frogs.~~ ^{All through the afternoon the croaking of innumerable} ~~All through the afternoon the croaking of innumerable~~ ^{Large Frogs rolled over the half} ~~Large Frogs rolled over the half~~ ^{watered meadows & I heard Wood Frogs in a pool on the Bedford shore.} ~~watered meadows & I heard Wood Frogs in a pool on the Bedford shore.~~ ^{At evening & well into the night} ~~At evening & well into the night~~ ^{Hyssops were peeping in} ~~Hyssops were peeping in~~ ^{the shadows & singing their} ~~the shadows & singing their~~ ^{trills.} ~~trills.~~

Concord, Mass.

1900

April 17

Cloudy, calm, mild, with continuous but light and fine rain beginning about 9 a.m. Ther. 40°

Bald's Hill.

At daybreak Robins, Song Sparrows, Redwings, a Phoebe, a Chickadee, and a Flicker were singing. Later I heard a Pine Warbler and saw four juncos feeding in the path near the cabin. Several Chickadees and at least two Downy Woodpeckers came at intervals through the day to the suet which is left hanging in the black oak in front of our door.

Birds singing
at daybreak

After breakfast Purdin & I started on a walk. We found the woods, fields and meadows brown, bare and dreary looking under the leaden sky. The Arctic birds were scarce & particularly those which had just opened. Birds were rather numerous. We heard Robins, Song Sparrows, Flickers, and Red-wings frequently and Bluebirds once or twice. A Grass Finch sang over in Benson's pasture. A Ruby-crane Thimble was heard chattering near the barn and another was singing on Pine Hill where we also found a Canada Warbler. Pine Warblers were heard almost everywhere. We started three Portulacas and a fourth was descending steadily on the leg at the north end of Davis's branch.

Vegetation

Birds

Will Baettler, who called yesterday afternoon, saw eight Tree Swallows on his way down river. They were just here this season, he told us, by Field House on the 15th.

Tree Swallows
arrive

Baettler also said that Concord has been simply "flooded" with Winter-winged Crossbills the whole of the past winter.

Purdin & I saw no snow in the woods this morning but we found a great belt of thick ice extending the whole length of Pine Hill in the swamp on its western base. The river reached an unprecedented height during the February floods & the ice injured the shabby ice and

No snow left.

Winter rising
river

Concord, Mass.

1900

April 17

(No 2.)

about the edges of the swamps and along the river banks for more than was the case during the winter period of several years ago. Many young pines standing on ground which I have never known the water to reach before are broken off a foot or more above the ground. In the swamps the alders and high bluish bushes seem to have suffered more & many of them are completely stripped of branches. To offset this sad havoc the upland woods appear to have gone through the winter with exceptionally little injury. Indeed fewer one of my pines has lost so much as the smallest branch and I have found them for but one tree that has blown over.

(Ball's Hill)

Tree & shrubs
on low ground
damaged by
mid-winter
ice & rain.

In the afternoon Purdin & I walked along the river path to the Barrett meadow. It was raining steadily & harder than on any other time during the day but there was no wind, the air was warm and soft & the birds were singing freely as is their wont under such conditions. In the oaks on the knoll by the river just beyond the bars we found a flock of small birds containing seven or eight Chickadees, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Pine Warbler and a Yellow-rump the last then in full song. Over the half-flooded meadows across the river we could see clearly through the veil of fine rain a swarm of Green Swallows skimming close over the water. I tried to count them, but had to give it up. There were probably between thirty and forty & perhaps more. While we were watching them I was very sure that I heard Green herons in the distance.

Birds singing
in the rain.

Wild Geese?

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's) Blue joint grass
affairs.

1900.
April 17
(no. 3)

I noticed this afternoon that on the meadows banks along the river the "blue joint" (*Phalaris*) had already sent numerous slender, tender-green shoots above the surface of the shallow water. But the borders of the meadows are as brown & lifeless looking as in late December.

At frequent intervals through the day I heard in the cluster of pines on the West Bedford side of the river a Crow which sounded exactly like a Fish Crow. A Crow with a similar voice & probably the same bird has been in these trees for three or four years past. For aught I know the bird may really be a Fish Crow but he does not look different from the other Crows of this region & the chances are, of course, that he is a true Americanus with an abnormal con (or ca) which he may have acquired by consorting with Fish Crows in the North. So far as I can remember I have never heard him in action.

Crow with
a con like
those of
C. amphisp

I did hear Geese this afternoon. At least at about the time when I thought I did Gilbert & Pat, while at the house, saw three flocks containing respectively 65, 22 & 18 birds flying apart from, but within one hundred yards of, one another. They were heading S. at first & then bore off to the E. & disappeared in the mist in the direction of Great Meadows.

Wild Geese

While P. & I were standing near the cabin after tea a Snipe drummed there, the last time directly overhead. one cabin

Concord, Mass.

Baird's Hill.

1900.

April 18

Cloudy with strong S. W. wind and showers at morning and evening.

The strong wind silenced the birds and drove them to cover in all the more exposed places but among the pines and about the sheltered openings on the north side of the hill where I spent most of the forenoon and the whole afternoon there were a number of Robins, several Chickadees, a Canada Warbler, a Brown Creeper, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Pine Warbler, two or three Blue Jays, several Song Sparrows, and a few Red-winged Blackbirds. The Kinglets flitted close about me and sang exquisitely very many times. During the whole forenoon a Partridge drummed at short, regular intervals on the floor under among the oaks near the big red maple. The Blue Jays were very noisy and imitated the screaming of the Red-shouldered Hawk frequently.

Partridge

Blue Jays

At one time I heard the jingling melody of Rusty Blackbirds Rusty Grackles in the willows on the neighboring meadow. Judging by the sound there must have been a number of them. Crows were passing two & five any with which & over I saw four flying together.

At the cabin the wind blew hard all day but it did not prevent the Chickadees & at least one Downy from visiting the boat frequently. A Phoebe also paid us a brief visit & sang a few notes of its welcome song.

Phoebe visits the cabin.

Just as we were finishing dinner we heard the soul-stirring clamor of Wild Geese & looking out we just in time to see a fine flock passing rather low & very briefly over Baird's Hill heading N. E.; I did not make their number 45, I so. Neither of us got a very close count.

Wild Geese

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.

April 19

Early morning cloudy with heavy showers at & just before day break. The clouds began parting at 9 a.m. and by noon the sky was clear. The afternoon was brilliantly clear with the highest temperature we have had as yet. Ther. 56° - 70°. Wind W. blowing almost a gale in the afternoon.

To the Barrett farm at 7.30 driving up. Birds singing freely. Heard the first Martin of the season at Ball's Hill, Martins & the first Field Sparrows at the farm. A Grass Finch Field Sparrows was singing in Benson's pasture & another at the farm where I also saw or heard Robins, a Blowbird, a Cowbird, a Song Sparrow, a Blue Jay. A pair of Phoebe's were flitting about at the entrance to the barn cellar and then & rose in the air over and gave the flight song. Two or three Junco's were flitting about in the orchard singing and I saw a flock of about ten new Mex. Pitches. The men tell me that a small Hawk Hawk after my pigeons has been harrying my Pigeons at the farm but I have not yet seen a nocturnal bird of any kind. I saw at least two Red Squirrels near the house & a Chipmunk ran over the front door step twice while I was there.

I returned to the cabin at noon & spent the greater part of the afternoon writing. At about 5 P.M. Oak leaves that have clung to the trees are the wind increased almost to a gale tearing off hundreds of leaves from the oaks about the cabin and whirling winter forced off by swirling winds? them high in air where they circled like flocks of birds. They have probably been loosened by the swirling winds for I have several full from the trees when there was no wind. A Meadow Lark was singing across the river this morning. Goats began trilling last night. Goats trill

1900.

April 20

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

Cloudless & very warm. Wind light, N. to N.E.
Ther. 41° - 74°.

Spent the day at the farm driving up early in the morning and back after dark. Near the house I saw or heard Robins, Thrushes, Chickadees, Fox Squirrels, a Purple Finch, Goldfinches, Grass Finch, Field Sparrows, meadow larks and Song Sparrows, Red-wings, a ♀ Cowbird, the pair of Phoebe, Crows, Jays & Flickers.

Birds about the
farm house.

At about 9 a.m. a ♂ Broad-winged Hawk appeared nearly over the barn where he hovered in circles at no great elevation for several moments giving us a fine view of his characteristic tail markings. To my eye the shape of this bird's wing is not strikingly different from those of *B. lineatus*.

Broad-winged
Hawk.

As we were eating dinner the loud screaming of a Red-shouldered Hawk came to our ears through the open door & looking out we beheld three of these fine birds soaring in company over the open field in front of the house. One of them carried something that looked like a frog in his talons.

Three Red-
shouldered Hawks
soaring together.

In the forenoon Purdie & I visited Purple Rock to see how the plants I introduced there last year were getting on. We found the *Barbarea hepatica* in bloom; though to be sure all but one plant had white flowers. The young *Asplenium* was all dead but most of the other plants seemed to doing well.

Plants at
Purple Rock.

In the dense white pines near the well we saw a Hermit Thrush and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet & heard two Canada Warblers. A Partridge was drumming near the well late somewhere S.E. of the well.

Northern Birds.

Concord, Mass.

1900

April 20
(Mon.)

A pair of Chickadees were excavating a nest in a birch stump W. of the rock. Both birds worked entering the hole alternately and carrying the chips of rotten wood thirty or forty feet away before depositing them.

In the afternoon Pender saw a ♂ Marsh Hawk beating the field below the orchard and while driving to Concord later he saw a great number of Robins, thirty or forty he thinks, scattered about in pairs in fields & orchards.

Blood root bloomed to day for the first time both at the farm and at Ball's Hill.

He saw the first mosquitoes on the cabin last evening and they were actually troublesome at the farm house this evening.

A Field Sparrow was singing in Benson's field this morning and in his orchard we saw a pair of Bluebirds copulating.

A Meadow Lark seems to have settled for the season in the field near the West Bedford Station.

He has been singing there every morning when the air is still.

When we returned to the cabin just after dark this evening Hyles, House Wren and Golds were making the meadows ring with their loud voices. Their sound was indeed almost deafening. There must have been thousands of them.

About an hour after I went to bed I heard a Snipe down several times & a Virginia Rail join the cuckoo note at intervals for half-an-hour or more.

(The Farm)

Chickadees
excavating hole
for nest

Marsh Hawk

Robins

Blood root
blooms.

First Mosquitoes

Field Sparrow
Bluebirds
copulating.

Meadow Lark

House Wrens
in full cry.

Snipe downed.

Concord, Mass.

(Bosch's Hill)

1900.

April 21

Sun shining dimly through thin clouds. Light
S. W. wind. Ther. 37° - 73°. Air moist & rather sultry.

When I awoke at daybreak a Partridge was
dreaming at short regular intervals. Although the door
& windows were closed and the bird cannot have been
at his regular station on the floor wall beyond the
high ridge behind the cabinet the sound came distinctly
if faintly to my ears.

Partridge
quality of the
sound made
by a dreaming
Partridge

The early morning singing was brief but there was
a full chorus which included Robins, a Chickadee, a
Pine Warbler, Song Sparrows, Red-wings & a Flicker taking
part. The Phoebe seems to have left us.

Early morning
singing near
cabin.

Walking to the E. end of the hill just after breakfast
I came upon a pair of Chickadees busily engaged in
excavating a hole in a birch stump. Like the birds
seen yesterday they entered the hole alternately, filled
their bills with fragments of the rotten wood and carried
them back thirty or forty feet away before dropping
them. Each bird had a favorite perch on which it usually
alighted to drop its load but occasionally each would
fly to some tree other than the one it usually visited.
They worked very rapidly & systematically & were evidently
making rapid progress. They paid not the slightest
attention to me. I was although on hand for
some time looking within fifteen yards of the nest.

Chickadees
excavating
hole

I spent the entire day overseeing the transplanting
of a lot of pines in the sandy field near the
wood shed. Robins, Pine Warblers, Flickers (2), Song
Sparrows, a Field Sparrow & Red-wings were singing
most of the day in or near this group. Robin song

Birds singing

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900

April 21

(Ms 2)

were screaming and imitating the Red-shouldered Hawk in the neighboring oak woods. In the afternoon I heard a Kingfisher scold by the river and saw a flock of 21 Cedar birds fly over. Purdie reports seeing two Yellow Palm Warblers in an apple tree at Benson's.

Kingfisher

Cedar Birds

Yellow Palm W.

Two pumping

of Purdie.

At 5.30 P.M. a Bittern (the first I have heard this spring) pumped three or four times in the old station on the South side of Great Meadows. At sunset Red-wings were singing far & near in every direction.

As twilight was falling Purdie discovered a Rabbit within ten feet of the smaller cabin and called me out to see it. It was nibbling at a piece of toasted bread and showed little or no fear of us although it started off a few feet when I tried to pass it within a distance of two or three yards. It looked & acted like the remarkably tame Rabbit which frequented the back corner of the cabin last spring.

A young

late Rabbit

As Pat was digging a hole for a pine this afternoon his spade turned out three young Painted Tortoises alive but in a torpid state. They were about as large around as silver dollars. Several years ago at about this season or a little later Wood, while hoeing Purdie's field found several of these young Tortoises apparently on their way to the river.

Young Painted

Tortoises dug up

in sandy field

He brought one of them to me & I remember that at the time we both thought that they must have just come out of the ground. I wonder if all of them remain there during their brief winter

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

April 22

Cloudy with strong N.E. wind after 9 a.m. and showers of fine misty rain at frequent intervals. Ther. 47-59°

The early morning singing was prolonged through most of the forenoon. In addition to the usual common birds which I have been noting of late were Swamp Sparrows of which I heard three or four in the thickets along the river and in the swamp behind Ball's Hill. They must have arrived last night as I have heard none before this. The only other arrival was the Bank Swallow whose unmistakable chattering cry I heard several times during the day. In the forenoon a Ruby-crowned Kinglet came down about the cabin and sang exuberantly.

I heard Snipe drumming at intervals through the day both opposite the cabin and over the meadows below Davis's Hill.

Swarms of Swallows were skimming all day low over the Great Meadows. There must have been several hundreds, the greater number the Swallows, no doubt, although I did not get near enough to them to make sure of this. I heard one Martin among them.

As Gilbert and I were standing directly in front of the cabin just after breakfast we saw a large bird flying swiftly towards us along the path. I took it for a Hawk at first but as it came nearer saw that it was a Partridge. It passed directly over us within six feet and shutting suddenly on discovering our presence flung the wings of a bird so violently as to cause the whole branch to shake. It then turned into the woods.

Early morning
singing.

Swamp Sparrows
arriving & singing

Bank Swallows
arriving.

Snipe drumming
at intervals
through day.

Swallows in
swarms over
meadows.

Partridge
flies past cabin

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill.)

1900.
April 22
(No 2.)

Hearing a Flicker "thumping" this morning on the hillside above the cabin I looked for him closely and presently discovered him perched in the top of an oak sitting nearly erect on a slender twig, his plumage ruffled. He constantly turned not only his head but his body from side to side while delivering his loud notes. Gilbert called my attention to the evident fact that there were not all on the same key, every other note on being a "half step" lower than the ones which preceded & followed it. I do not mean by this that the song was abnormal but simply that I have never before noticed the peculiarity just mentioned. Flickers appear to be unusually numerous here this season. I heard two thumping in the Ball's Hill woods at one time yesterday.

✓
"Thumping" of the
Flicker

Our Town Wild Rabbit was nearly in the same place this evening. I threw several large cones of fresh lettuce down in front of it but they were untouched till after midnight although when we left the spot at evening the Rabbit was looking at one of them intently.

Our Town
Wild Rabbit

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900

April 23

Cloudy with occasional showers of fine rain. Wind light, varying from S.W. to N.W. Ther. 45°-60°

Arrivals: Hirundo erythrogastrus, 3 or 4; Petrochelidon campans, cork-in-balls notes heard once distinctly; Spizella socialis, one at Ball's Hill, another at Benson's, both singing; Totanus melanoleucus, one heard whistling over Great Meadows at evening.

Arrivals.

Spent the entire day collecting & setting out prices. I was in the field in front of the wood shed most of the time but visited Pine Hill in the forenoon & Davis's Hill in the afternoon. It was a good bird day and the air was so damp & still that one could hear sounds at unusual distances. Some of the commoner birds were in song practically all day. Flickers were especially in evidence & Robins & Red-wings sang almost incessantly.

Birds singing
all day

Besides the "arrivals" above noted the most interesting birds which came under my observation were a superb old & young Hawk which crossed Benson's field in the afternoon and a Red-shouldered Red-tailed Hawk which was soaring & swooping over Ball's Hill & the Holden Hill just after dinner. I also heard one or more Herring Gulls swooping in the direction of Davis's Hill.

Herring Gulls.

Canada Nuthatches are thick here.

Canada Nuthatches.

There was a full chorus of Loons, Pigeons & Hylas
this evening

Pigeons & Loons

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

April 23
(No. 2)

At about 9 P.M. as we were sitting in the cabin reading I heard a Great Horned Owl hooting. The windows & door were closed and the sound seemed to come through the logs at the back of the house & perfectly distinctly though rather faintly. When we stepped outside it became evident at once that the bird was in the cluster of tall firs at the east end of Ball's Hill within about 100 yds. of the cabin. He continued to hoot at short intervals & without changing his position for fifteen or twenty minutes giving always five notes, hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo. The night was foggy, cloudy and intensely dark. It is unusual, according to my experience, for an Owl of any kind to hoot so persistently under such conditions. I hope he did not catch one poor Rabbit.

Hooting of
G. Horned Owl.

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

April 24

Forenoon cloudy with frequent showers of fine rain,
afternoon clearing with threatening wind clouds and a violent
but brief gale accompanied by hail at 5 P.M. Wind N.E.
all day. Ther. 48° - 58° (38° at 8 P.M.).

Most of the ornithological interest of the day's experience
was condensed within a period of fifteen or twenty minutes
between 7.15 and 7.35 A.M. when I took a short walk
around the E. end of Ball's Hill. On reaching the main
opening beyond the big red oak I found them abun-
dantly with birds nearly all of which were singing or calling.
There were a Robin or two, a Golden-crowned & a Rusty-
crowned Kinglet, 2 Chickadees (at work on the nest in the
beech stump), 2 Yellow Red bell Warblers, 6 or 8 Yellow rumped
Warblers, ~~12~~ several House Wrens, several Song Sparrows and at least
3 Blue jays. Presently I heard Chipping Swifts twittering
& took up some four flying high over the hill. The next
moment two Great Blue Herons appeared passing westward
at a great height & evidently migrating. Then a
Marek was heard. Finally an Osprey and a Marsh
Hawk crossed Holden's Meadows in opposite directions
at the same moment. In addition to these species
I heard Red-wings, Rusty Black-birds & Crows.

Early morning
walk.

Birds noted

Chipping Swifts
arrived at 7.15 A.M.

Great Blue Herons
migrating.

Osprey
Marsh Hawk.

Two of the Blue jays kept uttering the bell note on
opposite sides of the opening in which I was standing
and within 30 yards of me. At this short distance a
curious huskiness was distinctly audible. It had much
the same quality as that of the Virginia Rail's call when
heard very near at hand the sound vibrating rather
unpleasantly on the ear & seeming to come, at times, from

Bell notes of
Blue jay

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900

April 24 (Blue Jay) The ground beneath my feet. The Jays have been mimicking the Red Shouldered Hawks fairly of late and I have frequently heard both them & the Hawks at the same time. The imitation is very perfect but the Jay seldom gives more than four or five & usually but three or four whistles in succession while it runs, I think, attempts to reproduce the broken, cackling notes which the Hawks interpolate among the kee-e-o cries when they are screaming loudly & continuously. Bearing these facts in mind it is not difficult to distinguish between the voices of the two birds.

One of the Yellow Red-poll Warblers sang to day like a Chaffinch that I mistook it for that species at first. Listening more intently & critically I found that its song was really more hurried & broken than that of the Chaffinch.

Song of ✓
Yellow-rumped
Warbler

The Fish Hawk lingered about Ball's Hill all day. A Crow followed it for some distance rising above & plunging down at it but not appearing to discover it in the least.

✓
Osprey & Crow
The Crow
The Osprey

I spent the day planting trees in the sandy field by the wood shed. While thus engaged I sometimes saw over head any birds of special interest.

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.

April 25

Brilliantly clear with strong N.W. wind. Ther. 33°-68°.
A heavy white frost early this morning.

Spent the day at the farm driving up in the early morning and back at 6 P.M. Saw only the common birds & made no observations of any particular interest. Heard a Canada Warbler at Ball's Hill in the early morning. Purdie saw three Yellow Palm Warblers there and two more in the region west of the farm. No arrivals were noted to-day. A ♀ Bluebird was building in my orchard this morning. She alighted on a gate & stripped strands of loose bark from the top rail. (a red cedar pole).

There were one or two Chipping & five Purple Finches in the old orchard. The Purple Finches were a fine red back & fair gray birds. They were eating buds & hopping about on the ground under the trees.

Purple Finches

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.

April 26

Brilliantly clear with violent N. W. wind. Therm.
37°, 69°, 46°.

Spent the day at the farm. When I reached there at 8 A. M. a Purple Finch, Black & White Cuckoo, Yellow Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were singing in the old orchard. I heard another Cuckoo in the grove of red pines in the forenoon. At about noon a ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk skimmed past the house. In the afternoon I visited Pulpit Rock where I heard a second Ruby-crown chattering & saw two Hermit Thrushes, and Chickadee one which an Osprey chased vigorously for several minutes. Pordin & Gilbert saw three Hermits together near the Rock & a Jay on Benson's. Later in the afternoon Gilbert started two Bitterns from Mallett's meadow and a third from the Bedford House opposite the cabin. It is strange they are not pumping. The only one I have heard thus far was on the 21st. The skeleton & wing-feathers of a Bittern that must have been killed thus spring are lying among the alders not far from the cabin.

Birds noted

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Osprey

Bitterns

A Sapsucker spent the day at the farm in the grove of cypresses behind the barn. It was a fine adult & ~~the~~ the first bird of the spring that I have ever seen in Concord in spring. He was very sluggish spending nearly half an hour clinging to the horizontal side of a brick wall & moving only his head. Pordin & I both think that we saw the same bird yesterday.

Sapsucker

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.

April 27

Early morning clear; remainder of day cloudy with strong, harsh N. W. wind. Ther. 35°, 67°, 40°.

Spent the forenoon and the latter part of the afternoon at the farm. The high, raw wind stirred the birds & drove them to the dense cover so that I saw & heard but few & those of the commonest kinds. Driving to Concord in noon and on the return drive in the afternoon I saw only a few Robins and an immense flock of Red-winged Black-birds (at least 100) apparently all males. They were in the tops of a white oak & all singing in one working a prodigious noise. At the Keyes' I saw a ♀ Sharp-shinned Hawk fly from one of the large Spruces having what looked like a small bird in its talons.

Large flock of
Red-wings.

Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Miss Marion Keyes tells me that a Red-bellied Nuthatch [✓] Canada Nuthatch has been seen of the most constant as well as the very common of the birds which have visited her since the past winter & spring. It flew into one of the chambers through an open window the other day & she caught it in her hand with but slight difficulty. eating fruit.

Noted the spring flight call of the Cow-bird as chee-ee-ee-ee a long-drawn, somewhat reedy & rather musical whistle.

✓
Spring flight call
of Cow-bird

Repeatedly of late I have heard a ♂ Bluebird warbling to its mate in tones exquisitely soft & tender & so low as to be audible only a few yards away. Among the ordinary notes it intercalates a fine, wavy whining sound not unlike the preliminary notes of the Red-shouldered Kinglet's song.

✓
Bluebird's
love notes

Concord, Mass.

1900.

April 28

(The Farm)

Early morning clear; remainder of day cloudy with light N.E. wind and occasional sprinkles of rain. Heavy rain 7-9 P.M. Ther. 33°-61° (42° 7 P.M.).

Spent the day at the farm driving up in the early morning, the Ball's Hill Robins & Red-wings sang at daybreak and I heard Field Sparrows and Pine Grosbeaks as I was on my way to the farm. I devoted the forenoon to sowing out plants in the wild garden at Pulpit Rock. While thus engaged I heard a Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing and two Chickadees giving the blat-bat call. A Red-throated Hawk was flying about through the trees screaming loudly. About the farm house I heard almost nothing save the Phoebe, a Purple Finch & a Robin or two. A Partridge drowned in the afternoon near the Rock.

Birds noted.

I walked back to the cabin at evening by way of the Barrett oak woods & Pine Ridge. When I heard a Canada Nuthatch (there was also one at Pulpit Rock this morning) and saw a House Wren. Robins were singing freely just before sunset.

Canada Nuthatch

Brown Creeper

The cool weather of the past few days has almost completely silenced the Batrachians. I heard only one this evening, a Pileated Hyla.

Frogs & Toads
silenced by
cold weather.

1900
April 29

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

Cloudless winter fresh W. wind. Decidedly warmer. Here.

Just after we had had our breakfast from Downy Woodpeckers, a ♂ and three ♀♀, arrived practically together and began their work in the oak just west of the cabin. The ♂ & one of the females fed for some time on opposite sides of the stump while the other two birds had to arrive three times. There was a good deal of bickering among them before any of them began to eat. When thus engaged two birds facing one another & a foot or so apart would erect the feathers of the crown into a lion crest and hop around in a circle always keeping face to face and nodding or bowing their heads in an odd way, sometimes uttering a querulous chattering cry very like those of the English Sparrow. This note evidently expresses rage or defiance & is more given down under conditions such as those just described.

Downy Woodpeckers
behaving in
a peculiar manner.

While Gilbert & I were watching the Downy Woodpeckers standing not twenty feet from them a shadow passed us and a ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk darted down over our heads and into the middle of the little party of Downies. He evidently stooped at one of the females but she dodged him. Before he had flown his feet in pursuit of her he discovered us and turning back alighted in the oak low down facing us. After sitting there about a minute he took off through the woods. He was a beautiful, blue-bellied adult bird.

Sharp-shinned
Hawk swoops
at Downy W.

Walking around the Hill in the early morning

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

April 29
(Sat.)

I saw four Yellow Palm Warblers (two in one place, two in another), two \pm Yellow-rumps, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in full song, two Black & white Angels & a few Robins, Song Sparrows, Jays etc.

The song of the Yellow Palm Warbler is very variable or rather different individuals sing very differently for I do not find that the same bird's song varies at different times. The song that I hear oftenest is much like that of the Yellow-rump but weaker or more listless and also more broken. Some birds sing very like the Chipping Sparrows. One that I heard this morning uttered a loud, dry, prolonged chatter quite different from the song of any birds that I can think of.

Song of
Yellow Palm
Warbler.

Crossed the river to the West Bedford shore at 11 a.m. & walked up the enclosed to dry farm plover. The day was very hot, the woods apparently nearly barren of bird life but alive with Androsphinx butterflies. A Red-throated Humbird flew from an oak near the place where we landed.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900

April 29

May 3

I returned to Cambridge on the afternoon of the 29th and spent the following day and the first three days of May superintending some bottom extension planting operations on the old place.

(The Garden)

I found vegetation much further advanced than at Concord. A few cherry blossoms (the first, within days) were out on my arrival and by May 2nd the trees were in nearly full bloom. Heparaca were past, blood-red peonies, *Corydalis* & *Delphinium* in full bloom, Crocuses opened on the 1st and crocuses of several species the same day. By the 3rd the alders were apparently half out to cast an agreeable shade. The weather was fine & warm up to the 3rd when a heavy rain continued through the day.

Vegetation

The following birds were noted in the Garden:— On April 30, Yellow Warbler ♂ (arrived), Canada Warbler (heard), Cedar Bird (heard), Chipping Swift (heard—arrival for Cambridge), Goldfinches 4 in flower, two of them ♂♂ in parti-colored yellow & gray plumage.

Garden Records

May 1; Redstart ♂ ad. (singing in lindens at dinner & later, & the first seen here this season), Yellow rumped Warbler ♂ in lindens, Black & white Cuckoo ♂ (in pear orchard), Red crossbill (heard flying one)

May 2; The Yellow Warbler, Redstart singing all day. Nothing new.

May 3 Stormy; no observations.

Besides the above named I noted clearly Robins (about two pairs), Chipping Sparrows (a pair), Broward Grackles (flying one rather close to me). On the 2nd a Flicker whistled & a Chickadee gave the fluster call.

Cambridge, Mass.

(The Garden)
A town
Robin

1900.

April 29
to
May 3
(no. 2)

One of the Robins on the lawn, a fine old male which was one of the earliest arrivals this spring, has become extraordinarily tame. When he first came there were evidently no worms at the surface of the ground but being an intelligent bird he observed that my men, who were then engaged in excavating for a pond, turned out numbers of them in the loose earth. Then he gradually ate talking them at first after the men had left their work but later hanging close about the edges of the pits and occasionally making a dash at a worm which had only just fallen from the shovel.

During the past three days he has regularly followed these same men who have been transplanting trees and so bold has he become that I have repeatedly seen him take worms within three or four feet of one of the diggers. On several occasions indeed I almost stepped on him and once when I thrust my trowel into the ground to remove a bunch of violets he came running up and stopped within two feet of my hand looking first at the upturned earth and then into my face with his bright, honest eyes.

One of the men held out a wriggling worm to this Robin yesterday and for a moment he acted as if he were about to take it but he finally decided not to do so and moved away.

He rarely uses his wings when following us about or moving out of our way but runs from place to place over the whole garden keeping always within a few feet of us.

Concord, Mass.

1900

May 4

Clear with cool, strong N. W. wind. Ther. 5-2° at 7 a.m.

Returned to Concord this morning with Gilbert. As we were walking from the West Bedford station to the boat we saw a ♂ Sparrow Hawk. It apparently started from an oak on the edge of the meadow. As it passed nearly over us, circling and soaring, I saw its red tail distinctly. A Purple Martin accompanied it for some distance flying literally by its side.

Sparrow hawk

I found Petition awaiting me when we arrived and drove directly to the farm where I spent the greater part of the day in the woods near the red pines which we cleared of crowing crows & other trees as well as cutting a wood road. Saw two White-throats and heard a Solitary Oriole singing. Black & White Capers were numerous everywhere. Four Swifts passed over the house but no bird of any kind sang as it whistled I was there. This total silence was caused no doubt by the high & rather chilly N. W. wind.

Birds at the farm.

The wind had fallen when I started to walk back to the cabin. A Robin was singing in the birch field and a ♂ Towhee keating among the dry leaves that had drifted against a stone wall. When I reached Ball's Hill Red-wings were singing all over the meadow, a Brown Thrasher was pouring out his loud musical notes on the West Bedford shore & a Kingbird passed overhead calling. At least fifty Swifts were circling over the S. end of Ball's Hill and a swarm of Barn, House & Bank Swallows were coursing over Hildin's Meadow. I also saw a Yellow Warbler & a Yellow Palm Warbler in

Walk from Farm to Cabin

Concord, Mass.

1900

May 4
(no 2)

Some birds by the river. Of the birds just named the Wilson's Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Solitary Vireo, Towhee & Kingbird were noted for the first time this season but it is probable there have been all of them around here when I was absent in Cambridge. Gilbert saw a ♂ Redstart and a Green Heron near the Cabin on April 30.

Accipiter.

During my walk home this evening I heard five different Partridges during & in addition started three birds which were certainly not among those which I heard. Three of the deerings were on the Boston farm, one on the Farm road at the foot of the run, one on an old wall at the western end of Birch Field, the fourth on the ridge north of the Spring. Standing on Purple Rock I could hear all three distinctly. They seemed to be answering one another for no two of them deerned at the same time. The fourth deermer was at the N. end of Davis's branch, the fifth on Ball's Hill.

Partridge

Approaching the bird that was deermer at the western end of Birch Field I saw him leave the wall and run off to the right under some pines with his tail & ruffs wide spread. The next instant another Partridge started from nearly the same spot & nestled off among the dry leaves keeping behind the wall & whining like a young puppy, keeping up this cry for a minute or more just as a hen Partridge with young usually does. I am nearly sure that this heard bird was a ♀ but I did not see her distinctly enough to be certain.

Concord, Mass.

(Barri Hill)

1900

May 5

Sky half-filled with rapidly muddying clouds; a violent and at times stormy W. W. wind; brief flurry of thinly falling snow fleeces on about 10 a.m. Ther. 36° (lowest) 58° (highest). Altogether a harsh, disagreeable day for this season.

There was a fairly full chorus of bird voices at sunrise but as my door & windows were closed I identified very few of them. I heard songs a White-throated Sparrow was singing near the cabin. There about 8 Redstarts were fluttering about together when I first looked out.

Early morning singing.

Walking around the E. end of the hill at about 7 a.m. I found a number of small birds collected in the dense young pines & quickly identified these species new to this year's list viz the Chestnut-sided and the Black-throated Green Warbler and the Ovenbird having one of each in full song. There were also a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Canada Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow Palm Warbler & 2 ♀ Yellow-crowns. A Carolina Wren, the first I have noted this season, was cooing in the pines beyond the swamp. Numbers of Swallows & a few Swifts were flitting over the neighboring meadow.

Arrived.

Carolina Dove cooing.

On my way to the Flatiron I heard a Grass Finch and a Purple Finch both on the West Meadow floor.

At evening few birds sang but I heard a Western Gull and a Surfer scarping in the direction of Great Meadow.

Just as the sun set a great number of Red-crowns collected together tomorrow in the meadows were singing in melody. The general effect was strikingly suggestive of the howling of Gulls. The birds were as a consequence distressed.

Melody singing of Red-crowns.

East Lexington, Mass.

1900.

May 5
(No. 2)

I took the 8.13 train for E. Lexington where I met D. A. Lathrop by appointment our object being to find & photograph some Grebes' nests. Lathrop had engaged a boat but it proved to be too costly as to keep one or two others of us at work bailing most of the time. It was also too broad to go through the brush easily. Nevertheless by patience & hard work we explored practically every flooded thicket in the entire swamp. The results were disappointing for we found only one Grebe's nest. Nor did we have any Grebes save the pair to which this nest belonged. The weather, of course, was not favorable for them to be coming fully but Lathrop & I both think that they are less numerous than usual & that possibly the birds whom we found are the only ones. This nest was built in the center of a small cluster of lily-like button bushes & was floating on water about 2 feet deep. It reached to tops and rose and fell as the waves reached it from a floor of 12-15 inches more by. It contained 6 eggs. These were covered when we found it, wholly uncovered when we visited it an hour later, entirely covered when we passed it on our way to the landing in the afternoon. We exposed a number of plates on it during our second visit spending nearly an hour in this occupation. During this time the Grebes called every little while, at first from distance away, gradually working nearer until they were within 25 or 30 yards. They gave the Cuckoo call only. We did not see either of these.

Nest of
Common Grebe

East Lexington, Mass.

1900

May 5
(no 3)

While searching for Grouse' nests we found them
new nests of the Bronzed Grackle all nearly finished
but empty. We saw only two of the birds but Red-wings
were numerous (saw a ♀ over here) and a flock of
Rusty Grackles passed over us.

nests of
Bronzed Grackles

There were several Hawks about. We saw a ♂
Coopers', a ♂ Sharp-shinned, two, a ♀ Marsh Hawk
and an Osprey. The last-named hung about the
pond all day alighting on the tops of the taller
trees & over hanging over us within easy gun range.

Hawks

We also started a Great Blue Heron from a retired
cove and saw a Blue Duck flying high. Only
one Rail (a Carolina) was heard & but one
Kingfisher seen. A few Snipes & Doves were
skimming about in the fountain.

Concord, Mass.

Baker's Hill.

1900.

May 6

A gloomy, depressing day the sun almost completely obscured by a dense smoky haze, a penetrating W. wind blowing. Early morning cold. Pat reports the ground stiffened & barren paddles skinned with ice but it did not freeze at the cabin. Ther. 34° - 59°

A late frost.

A mixed flock of upwards of fifty Warblers spent the day at the S. end of Baker's Hill drifting back & forth through the oak scrub. Most of them were Yellow-rumps & of these the majority were females. There was also a Parula Warbler, several Cypselos (Ministrets), a Black-throated Green Warbler, a Pine Warbler, then about 38 Redstarts, then Yellow Palm Warblers, and on a tree Chestnut-sided Warblers. A swarm of Swifts (fully 100) were also drifting back & forth over the hill just above the tops of the trees from evening to night. There were only a few swallows here to-day.

Yellow-rumps

abundant

Parula

Warblers

Warblers

swarm

We found a second & much smaller flock of Warblers at Davis's Hill among them several Yellow-rumps, one Nashville Warbler & a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Just after breakfast I heard Red Crossbills calling on the hillside above the cabin & presently saw two birds start from a pine tree & fly off.

Red Crossbills

Red-bellied Nuthatches over Hocking Cove. I heard one behind the hill this morning.

Spent most of the forenoon writing but walked to Davis's Hill just after breakfast. In the afternoon out on a wood path behind the hill. Small black grackles very numerous & troublesome for first time this year.

Black grackles
appear

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 7

Cloudless, then early morning then & frosty with strong N.W. wind, then middle of the day pleasantly warm, the evening calm & delightful. Ther. 35° - 60°

(Ball's Hill)

At Ball's Hill I saw in the early morning a Water Thrush, a Yellow Palm Warbler, & a few Yellow Rumps & Redstarts.

Water Thrush
& Yellow Warbler
arrived.

A Doe was again coming in the pine north of the house. At evening I found a Wilson's Thrush and a Yellow Warbler in the thickets along the river.

At Sunset flocks of Swallows, the majority Barn Swallows with a goodly number of House Swallows & a few Bank & Winter-bellied Swallows were darting about over the E. end of the Hill in company with 30 or 40 Swifts. An Owl-bird gave the flight long later.

(The Farm)

Spent the day at the farm working in the grove of Red Pines. Saw a Great Flycatcher & heard several Nashville Warblers & Yellow Rump birds on Pine branches. A Towhee was singing near the house at evening.

First
Great Flycatcher

As I was standing motionless under a pine on the edge of the Barren Run a of Sharp-shinned Hawk came streaking through the dense thickets near me skimming just above the surface of the ground, for a long oblique within ten yards of me. She wore a friendly kee, short expression & was evidently hunting. Presently she started on & passed out of sight. The next instant I heard a Robin squealing as if caught & another calling help excitedly. I have never before seen a Sharp-shin hunt through such dense cover before.

Sharp-shin Hawk

Purdie found a Blue Jay's nest with 4 eggs in Ash Swamp.

An early
Blue Jay's
nest

1900.

May 8

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

Cloudy with fresh S. W. wind and occasional light showers. Ther. 37°-62° (60° at 7 P. M.).

Upwards of 100 small birds spent the day on the northern slopes of Ball's Hill and in the thickets at its northern & eastern base. No doubt many of them were attracted there partly because of the shelter from the strong wind which this high, steep slope affords & partly by the swarms of gnats which had collected there for the same reason. But after making due allowance for these considerations it is evident that a heavy flight of migrants arrived from the South during the past night. It is interesting that such a flight took place for the reason that it looked here in advance of the warm wave which is beginning this evening.

Most of the birds above mentioned were Warblers of the following species: Ministrella varia (about 20), Hel. rubicapilla (3 or 4), Geothlypis a. asuel (3 or 4), Dendroica coronata (about 40 mostly ♀♀), D. parvirostris (about 20 all ♂♂), D. virens (3 or 4 ♂♂), D. cinereascens 1 ♂, D. h. hypochrysa (2), Setophaga ruticilla (about 9 ad. ♂♂ & one bird in plumage of ♀), Geothlypis trichas (5-8), Vireo olivaceus (1), V. flavifrons (1 singing), Corpodacus purpureus (1 singing), Zonotrichia albicollis (1 in), Empidonax minimus (2, another on Davis's Hill), Habia hesperiana (3 in full song at 7 A. M.). In addition to these woodland birds fully 100 Swifts & varying numbers of Swallows were darting about just above the tops of the trees. The gnats of which they were all feeding were these small dark-colored ones which so closely resemble the house fly of the north but which do not bite so

Large numbers
of these birds
arrived just in
advance of a
warm wave.

Swifts &
Swallows.

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900

May 8
(Sat)

fully or 2 viciously although they are very annoying at times by getting into one's eyes, nose & ears. At least I have no doubt that the birds feed chiefly on these insects for they were the only ones that I could see and the air was filled with their hovering figures.

The arrivals for the day were D. caudatus, S. trichas arrivis, V. olivaceus, V. flavifrons & Habia cristata mentioned above with Gabrocephalus cristatus (3 singing at Davis's Hill) and Dolichonyx oryzivorus (3 singing on West Bedford side of the river).

I spent the entire forenoon in the woods just behind Ball's Hill watching the hovering Woodpeckers & cutting down trees along a new wood path.

In the afternoon I visited Davis's Hill where I found about a dozen birds including the Cat bird, a Towhee, a Yellow Warbler & a few Yellow Thrushes.

In a small pine standing alone on an exposed part of the hillside I discovered a Blue Jay's nest over the edge of which projected the tail of the sitting bird. I did not disturb her or approach the nest nearer than 15 or 20 yards. (Nest empty & abandoned ^{day later} a few)

Blue Jay
on nest

As I was sitting on a bank by the river a large Hawk crossed the path within 15 yards of me coming from the hillside. I went at once to the shore but did not see the animal again although the bird was there & there seemed to be no place where a hawk could hide.

Hawk

1900.

May 9

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

Early morning clear & warm with fresh W. wind. Warm wave.
Clouds began gathering by 9 a.m. and from 10 a.m. to noon it rained heavily & continuously. Afternoon cloudy with wind shifting to N. & rapidly falling temperature.
Ther. 65° at 5:45 a.m., 51° at 7 P.M. & thermos (registered) 48° - 80°.

Arrivals: - Helminthophila chrysopleura ♂, Dendroica maculosa Arrived ♂, D. blackburnii ♂ in very high plumage, D. discolor ♂, Sylvania pusilla ♂, Parus cyathrodon ♂♂, Icterus galbula ♂♂, Falco columbarius ♀, Aethya americana 1; all except the Aethya seen either on or very near Ball's Hill. The Prairie Warbler being the first that I have ever noted there and the Golden-wing the first ♂ that I have heard singing there.

As nearly as I could make out most if not all of the north-bound migrants which were here yesterday departed last night but their places were more than filled by fresh arrivals from the South. Indeed the bird-wave which flooded the country to-day was one of the most remarkable that I have ever noted especially at so early a date. At least 300 small birds spent the day on Ball's Hill and in the afternoon I found nearly half as many more on Holden's Hill which every settling thicket or cluster of trees held a dozen or more. By far the greater number were Warblers and of these the Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Black & White, Cuckoo, Nashville, Anna and Maryland Yellow-throat were the more numerous. The flight of Chestnut-sided & Cuckoos equalled anything that I have ever witnessed before. In all

A great
bird-wave

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

May 9
(No 2)

fifty eight species were noted. Most of the fresh arrivals kept low down and were very conspicuous owing to the fact that the trees and shrubs are still mostly or quite bare of leaves. They (the birds) were also very tame and apparently tired & somewhat listless although they sang freely through most of the forenoon. Most of the species including the Golden-winged, Prairie and Magnolia Warblers were seen close to the cabin. They all frequented chiefly the small oaks which are just beginning to unfold their leaves. It was a pretty as well as unusual sight to see so many different kinds of Warblers collected together in practically one place. Indeed on several occasions nearly all the eighteen species observed were within sight or hearing at once.

I spent the entire day in the woods. While working out a path behind the wood shed in the forenoon I found a young pine which I wished to have cut down thinking it twice with a hatchet & with some force. A few moments later I happened to look at its top & there, to my surprise, was a Blue Jay's nest with the tail of the sitting bird projecting over the rim. When I moved off a little distance I could see the head which was held with the bill pointing upward at an angle of about 45° . I cut down several small oaks close about the pine & afterwards Mr. Purdin & I hunched at its base without disturbing the bird although the nest was not more than eight or nine feet above the ground. This nest, like the one found at Davis's Hill the other day, was in a comparatively open situation the pine in each case being surrounded by leafless trees.

nest of a
Blue Jay

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 9
(No 3)

In the late afternoon I visited Holden's Hill. The tall oaks and chestnuts which cover this sandy ridge were swarming with Hordens most of which appeared to be Yellow-wings, Chestnut-beds, Black & White Cuckoos and Redstarts with a goodly sprinkling of House and Northern Mockers.

There were also great numbers of Swallows and Swifts darting to & fro just above the tops of the trees. As I was idly watching them a Pigeon Hawk suddenly appeared in their midst. Seizing one bird that was moving rather slowly the Falcon outtook it in an instant and rising slightly above it dropped one foot and seized it without the slightest apparent effort. The affair was so unexpected and so quickly ended that was expressions of it are less vivid & precise than could be wished. I doubt if more than two or three seconds elapsed between the moment when I first noticed the Hawk and that when it struck its prey. The latter appeared to be either taken by surprise or surprised by fear for it without increased its pace nor resorted to that expedient which so often saves the smaller birds from the attacks of Hawks - viz dodging. Having secured it the Falcon made off very swiftly through the tree tops but presently circled back and alighted among the upper branches of a large chestnut which ~~stood~~ ^{grew} on the hillside about a stone fifty yards from where I was standing. During this flight the Hawk was closely pursued by a Barn Swallow who kept uttering the loud alarm note of its kind. This fact together with the length & shape of one of the

Pigeon Hawk
catches
downward
Barn Swallows

Concord, Mass.

1900

May 9
(24)

wings of the captured bird, which hang loosely down as the Hawk bore it off led me to conclude that the poor victim was also a Barn Swallow although when the Hawk caught it I took it to be a Lark.

*Pigeon Hawk
catching & devouring
a Barn Swallow*

After alighting in the chestnut the Falcon sat quietly on its perch for several minutes looking about rather listlessly & preening its feathers. I had an excellent view of it and with the aid of my glass could see distinctly that it was a ♀ in full plumage. Presently it began to pluck its prey and after the removal of a few mouthfuls of feathers to tear out and swallow shreds & morsels of flesh. Apparently preening and eating it worked busily - indeed almost incessantly - for just twenty minutes standing all the while on a stout horizontal branch holding the Swallow under one foot with the other leg drawn up among the feathers of the belly and the foot just showing. At the end of the time just mentioned nothing apparently remained of the Swallow save a wad of bones & feathers scarcely larger than a hickory nut. I saw this shapeless object in the Falcon's grasp just before the bird spread its wings at the termination of its repast (or rather a minute or two later) to dash away over the tree tops with headlong speed but I did not see it dropped nor could I find either it or any other remains of the Swallow on the ground under the tree.

While the Falcon was devouring its prey it evidently kept one eye on me for whenever I changed my position or even moved slightly it would stop feeding and watch me intently for a minute or two before resuming its meal.

1900.

May 9
(no 5)

Full list of species seen to-day with numbers of individuals of each, estimated in most cases: -

Turdus fuscans 4 (1%
Mimus nigricollis 2%
Colaptes auratus 2%
Harporhynchus rufus 2 (2%
Sialia sialis (hand)
Parus atricapillus 2%
Sitta canadensis 1
Minilitta varia 3088 2♀♀
Helminthophila chrysotus 8%
" rubicapilla 15%
Contortyx a. uva 2088
Dendroica aestiva 1
" coronata 30 (mostly ♀♀)
" viridis 488 1♀
" maculosa 8%
" penicillata 5088 1♀
" black-throated 8 ad.
" vigorsii 1%
" h. hyperborea 2
" discolor 8%
Sinus amoenus 4 (2%
" humboldtii 2
Geothlypis trichas 2088
Sylvania pusilla 8%
Setophaga ruticilla 20 ad 88 2♀♀
Vireo olivaceus 8%
" flavifrons 3 (2%
Progne subis (hand)
Petrochelidon lunifrons (hand)
Hamula erythrogastra 30

Colaptes auratus 20
Parus cyathrostris (89) (88) 8%
Zonotrichia albicollis 8%
Spizella socialis 8%
" pusilla 8%
Melospiza melodia 2%
" georgiana 5 (1%
Habia ludoviciana (89) 8%
Dolichonyx orissinus (hd)
Agelaius phoeniceus 6%
Icterus galbula 288
Scolecophagus carolinus (hd)
Corvus americanus 6
Cyanocitta cristata 3 (hand)
Tyrannus tyrannus 1
Sagurus phaeus (2)
Euphonia virens 5
Chondestes pelagicus 30
Dryobates velox 1
" rubescens 1
Colaptes auratus 2%
Troglodytes aedon 1
Parus carolinensis 1
Acridothera tristis 1
Buteo lineatus (89) 8%
Bonasa umbellus 1
Actitis macularia 1
Colinus virginianus (2)
(2 all safely after species)

Concord, Mass.

(Bull's Hill)

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 10

Clear with high N.W. wind. Bitterly cold with
flocies of snow in P.M. Ice thicker than window glass
found east again on the W. Bedford side of the flooded
meadows & Pat had to break a way through it for
his boat early this morning. On this side of the river
we saw no signs of frost & my wild fowls were all
wintered. The registering thermometer on the cabin recorded
extremes of 30°-60°. At 5.30 a.m. it stood at 34°, at
7 P.M. at 37°. I do not think I have ever known
such cold weather here in May before.

An unexpected
cold snap

Its effect on the birds was an interesting
and puzzling; interesting because it drove them all
from the woods to open sunny but sheltered places
close to the river where they were most conspicuous
and exceedingly tame; puzzling because in spite
of the cold which began early last evening there was
apparently a well-ordered migration during the night.
At least we had a new lot of birds at Ball's Hill
to-day. The arrivals were Larus a. bicinctus (a small, Arcticus
rather shy individual, very dark in color, that visited
the cabin at evening and morning) T. swainsoni (one,
very tame & absolutely identifiable), Dendroica floriola
2 adults & 8 in the bush by the river

Its effect
on the birds.

Other changes were a marked increase in the number
of Water Thrushes & White-throated Sparrows and a
decrease of fully fifty per-cent in those of Black & White
Carpenter, Chestnut-sided, House & Nashville Warblers and
Barn Swallows. The Yellow Warbler & Yellow Robin
Warblers, Redstarts & Swamp Sparrows were in about
the same numbers as yesterday. I saw no Juncos

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

May 10
(No 2)

Owls or hawks and noted but one Grosbeak.

Of course these changes may have been done formerly to the local shifting about of the birds just mentioned but I cannot believe that this was the case.

As I have already said the small birds were surprisingly tame to-day. Indeed they paid so little attention to me that I frequently got within a yard or two of Chestnut-sided Woodpeckers, Redstarts, Maryland Yellow-throats & Crows & sometimes I readily stepped on them as they were hopping about on the ground under fallen or drooping branches.

A Wilson's Blue-cap allowed me to approach within five or six feet as he was hopping along a leafless branch thus extending over the path. Very many birds came close about the cabin & at times my wild flower garden was full of brilliantly colored Woodpeckers of several species. There were more down birds than at any time & they would scarcely get out of my way as I walked about among the flowers.

Remarkable
tameness of
the smaller
migrants.

In the afternoon, Gilbert found a Partridge's nest with 12 eggs on Pine Ridge. It was under a ^{2 feet of a wood shed} ~~small~~ pine on the side of a deep, eastern exposure ^{bottoms within}. The bird flushed at about 10 feet. Partridges are more numerous on my land than I have ever known them to be in spring before.
(All the eggs were gone from this nest on the 13th.)

A Robin was lining a nest in a little hemlock near the wood shed this evening.

Robin lining
its nest

1900.

May 11

Concord, Mass.

Clear with strong W. to S.W. winds. Early morning bitterly cold. Pat brought in $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick frost from the meadow across the river. The ground was frozen hard at the cabin. The extremes of temperatures registered by my thermometer were 28° - 58° . Strange to say the vegetation does not seem to have suffered in the least although the earlier fairs are a foot high & many of the trees & shrubs covered with snow. Snow.

(Ball's Hill)
Still another
cold snap,
remarkably
severe for this
season.

Despite the extreme cold many birds apparently departed and a few arrived during the past night. At last we had a distinctly new lot at Ball's Hill to-day. Thus there were a Magnolia & Black-throated Green Warbler, a Louisiana Finch and a Hummingbird which there was a wonderful increase in the number of Water Thrushes & White-throated Sparrows. The Chickadees and the Olive-backed Thrush as well as the two Black-poll Warblers which were here yesterday had disappeared. The Yellow Warblers, Yellow Red-shoulders, Chestnut-birds, Maryland Yellow-throats, Redstarts & Swamp Sparrows were still present in remarkable abundance although their numbers had apparently somewhat diminished. I saw a ♀ Marsh Hawk at Ball's Hill & a Carolina Dove flying over Penn's field towards the Hill. Gilbert found a Partridge's nest with 9 eggs at the foot of the oak covered ridge on the W. side of Ball's Hill Swamp. He saw the bird on the nest which was at the foot of a beeches maple.

Movements of
migrating
birds.

Marsh Hawk.
Carolina Dove.
Partridge's
nest, 9 eggs.

During the forenoon I saw a Black-bellied Cuckoo by the roadside. In the woods near

Concord, Mass.

1900

May 11
(No 2)

Pulpit Rock a Black-burnin Warbler was singing in a hemlock and a Black-throated Blue & a Magnolia Warbler flitting about among the shrubbery. Yellow Palm Warblers are still here in small numbers & I saw a Blotched Hermit Thrush.

The Warblers kept very low down all day and many of them were hopping about on the ground. They were if possible even lower than was the case yesterday.

Warblers kept

low down &

are very tame

The Louisiana Tanager appeared early this morning on the walk directly in front of the cabin and was seen there at frequent intervals during the day feeding busily on some smaller birds and chasing off several Swamp Sparrows which attempted to share in the feast. He was much tamer than the bird who stayed so long last year. Early in the forenoon he sang a number of times in low tones & almost exactly like a Song-bird. Much more using this form of song alone. He was a rather dark-colored bird with but little buffy on the neck.

Louisiana

Tanager.

The only arrivals noted to-day were the Hermit bird, Louisiana Tanager & Blue-bird Cuckoo.

Arrivals

Concord, Mass

1900.

May 12

Cloudless, the early morning calm; later a brisk S.W. wind arose changing to E. in P.M. Extremes of temperature (registered) 33° - 56°.

Weather
moderately

The country was alive with birds but they were more scattered than has been the case during the past few days. Large numbers collected along the river along at Ball's Hill in the afternoon although there were comparatively few there in the forenoon.

Country alive
with birds.

The arrivals were; - Turdus mustelinus (a silent bird seen in front of the cabin in the early morning) Phycophilus solitarius (one seen at Dalton's Hill) and Passerina caerulea (one heard in Great Meadows in the late afternoon)

Arrivals

There was a marked increase in the numbers of Wilson's Thrushes, Cow Birds, Maryland Yellow-Throats and Bobwhites.

Species present in
increased numbers

Yellow-rumped Warblers and Oven-birds were apparently less numerous than they have been of late and Chestnut-sided Warblers had decreased very considerably being to-day in about their usual breeding numbers.

Black & White Cuckoos, Water Thrushes, Redstarts, Wilson's Black-caps, Swamp Sparrows & White-throated Sparrows were in about the same numbers as yesterday.

I heard three Black-brown Warblers singing, one on Ball's Hill, the other two in white pines at the farm.

Black-brown
Warblers.

A Golden-winged Warbler was singing in the Ball's orchard when the first apple blossoms had opened.

First apple
blossoms out.

Concord, Mass

1900.

May 12
(No 2)

I spent some time this forenoon thinking out the
tree close about the pine near the wood shed
where the Blue Jay is nesting. One of the birds
was on the nest sitting very deep within it, her
bill pointing almost straight upward. As I
was chopping at an oak within 20 ft. of the
pine the other Jay (the ♂, I supposed) came
to the nest with something in his bill which
he gave to his sitting mate. She stood up in
the nest to receive it at the same time
quivering her wings & uttering a continuous low
chipping noise like that of a young bird.

Bulls Hill

A Blue Jay
feeds its
sitting
mate

The Phoebe at the farm began building
some a few days ago under the eaves of the
barn 15 or 18 feet above the ground. This nest
appeared to be completed to-day & one of the
birds was sitting in it but she flew out &
back very few minutes.

Phoebe's
nest at the
farm.

The Lincoln's Finch which appeared yesterday
spent the whole of to-day in the thicket in front
of the cabin in company with several House
Sparrows & White-throats. He chased the former
away from the willow but the latter chased
him. By afternoon he had become so tame
& trustful as to emerge from the bushes & feed
in the open path when Gilbert & I were standing
within ten feet of the bird bed. We came very
near getting a photograph of him while thus caged.
He was singing the June song in the forenoon.

Lincoln's
Finch.

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 12
(No 3)

Five or six male Maryland Yellow-throats spent the afternoon on the ground in front of the cabin mingling with the Sparrows. They were so tame that we could almost catch them in our hands. They were continually quarreling among themselves but they were not molested nor were they molested by the Sparrows. We photographed several of them. They would hop around the camera within six or eight inches when it was placed on the ground. Sometimes I tried to attract them to a space of a yard or two square where the miller had had some straw but they certainly did not touch it.

Sometimes after lunch as we were at tea a small Hawk, probably a Sharp-shinned, pounced down into the bushes where the Sparrows & Maryland Yellow-throats were then feeding, making a loud cackling sound. Goldie ran to the door & saw the Hawk fly up into a maple but it had nothing in its talons.

Visiting Dalton's Hill this afternoon in quest of bird's foot violets I found five Greater Yellow-legs, a Solitary Sandpiper and two Spotted Sandpipers feeding on the mud flats at the mouth of the brook.

Bell's Hill

Remarkable

Tameness of

Maryland

Yellow-throats

Sharp-shin

Hawk

misses its

prey.

Yellow-legs

& other

waders at

Dalton's Hill.

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill

1900.

May 13

Clear with light S.W. wind. Extremes of temperature 51°-76°

Took a walk around Balls Hill just after breakfast. Birds were abundant but scattered. There seemed to be no marked changes as compared with yesterday excepting that most of the Yellow-rumps had apparently departed. Later in the evening, however, I found a small flock of these Warblers as well as a number of House Warblers in the swampy woods across the river.

A Black & Yellow Warbler and a Blue-brown war. singing near the cabin.

The Lincoln's Finch spent his third day with us but I did not hear him sing this morning. He has gradually dawned on me that he is the same individual which was here his consecutive days last spring. At least like that bird he is darker-colored than most of his kind with less buffy about the head. If my memory is correct his remarkable ~~tenacity~~ ^{tenacity} is accounted for by the fact that he has not forgotten the kind treatment he received from us last year.

Lincoln's
Finch.

Gilbert saw two Yellow-bellied Chickadees (arrivals) and a Green Heron to-day, all near the cabin. He visited his Partridge's nest on Pine Ridge in the afternoon & found all the eggs gone (shells & all) although the nest was not sampled. It was within a few feet of the roadway through the pines among some hay which had fallen from Ben's wagon.

Partridge's
nest despoiled
of its eggs

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 13
(No 2)

Took the 8.13 A. M. train to Cambridge. C. met me at the Station and we drove through Mt. Auburn where I heard Parula Warblers and a Black-throated Blue singing in the oaks and saw a Night Heron, a Green Heron & a Kingfisher at the long pond. There was also a Phoebe singing at the bridge over this pond.

Now it I was surprised to see a Carolina Bat flying about over the tops of the trees in the bright sunlight (it was now 11 A. M.), not merely wandering about as Bats will occasionally do by day when disturbed but evidently hunting for insects. After a flight of about five minutes it pitched suddenly down and alighted against the trunk of a large white oak where it hung head downward about 8 ft. above the ground.

Its reddish body exactly resembled a hollow country bird with rotten wood while its dark folded wings supplied the effect of the harder, blackened wood which is often found such a country.

Indeed it was hard to believe that we were not looking at a natural rounded currier such as that just indicated. On approaching the creature closely I found that it had caught a small, grayish water bug which it was munching in a curious manner. We left it clinging to the rough bark where it was as safe from discovery as if hidden within the inner recesses of a cavern.

Mt Auburn

Night Heron,
Green
Kingfisher &
Phoebe at
the artificial
pond.

Carolina
Bat flying
about in
bright sun-
light &
catching
insects.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 13
(No 3)

On returning to the house place I found the garden alive with birds. There were Robins, Cat birds (a pair, apparently, the ♂ in full song), a very large Gray-checked Thrush, an Oven bird, an House Wren, a Yellow Warbler, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, a Redstart, a Grosbeak, a Purple Finch. Late in the afternoon a Lincoln's Finch appeared in the central flower beds where he rambled about feeding and a superb adult ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler alighted for a minute or more on a wire flag within 12 feet of where C. & I were standing. There was also an Oriole or two & a White-throated Sparrow.

Walter Deane tells me that these birds were here yesterday. There was a heavy flight of birds during the past three days & he identified thirty-one species in the garden in a single day. The Gray-checked Thrush sang & called in long tones late in the afternoon.

The House Sparrows have established a roost in the eaves behind the house where great numbers of them assembled at about sunset this evening & continue to do so.

Our Garden
swarming
with birds

Roost of
House Spar-
rows in our
eaves.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 14

Early morning cloudy & calm; remainder of day
bunny but very heavy with light E. wind. $\text{Th. } 50^{\circ}\text{--}70^{\circ}$.

Spent most of the day in the garden. Of Birds seen
the birds seen yesterday the majority were still in our
present and there were two or three new comers. Garden.
The full list is as follows: 3 or 4 Robins, 1 Gray-
cheked Thrush, 1 Swainson's Thrush, 1 Cat-bird
(singing), 1 Yellow Warbler, 1 Black-poll Warbler (♂),
1 Oven Bird, 1 Red start (♂), 1 White-throated Sparrow,
1 Swamp Sparrow, 1 Lincoln's Finch, 1 Oriole,
two or three Crows (flying), 2 Cow Black birds (flying
over), 1 Parula (Usine) Warbler (singing), 1 Black-burnian
Warbler (singing in the elm in front of the
Alcove).

The Lincoln's Finch was a shy, skulking
fellow with most of his kind. He sang first on
his tree shortly after noon, giving the
house men form of song.

Lincoln's
Finch

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 14
(Wed.)

Balls Hill.

Returned to Concord by the 5:01 P. M. train.
On reaching the cabin I found two Lincoln's Finches,
a Winter-roun Sparrow, 2 Swamp Sparrows, a
Song Sparrow & a White-throated Sparrow busy
at the feed bucket. Gilbert says that there were
two White-crowns there earlier in the day &
that he saw a third at Concord this forenoon.

Lincoln's F.
White-cr. Sp.

Taking a run over & around the Hill just
before lunch I found Warblers very numerous.
I saw a pair of Black-throated, a Black-throated
Blue, a Wilson's Black-cap, & a 10 Yellow-rumps,
a pair of Chimney-suckers & 3 Carpenter, and
numbers of Redstarts & Downy birds.

Heavy flight
of Warblers

Forty or fifty Barn Swallows, eight or ten
Barn Swallows & perhaps a dozen Swifts were
darting about in wavy lines just above
the tops of the large oaks which crown the
summit of the Hill.

Swallows &
Swifts over
Balls Hill
at sunset.

Veeries were calling in all directions on
hillsides but I heard none sing.

Veeries calling
at evening.

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 15

Clear with strong S. W. wind. Thunder showers
howling about the western horizon at evening and a light sprinkle
of rain here. Intensely hot for the season Ther. 48°-90° here,
maximum at Cambridge 96°.

Balls' Hill
"the Farm."

Sudden
hot wave.

I spent the first hour after breakfast (7-8 A.M.) in
the Balls' Hill woods. Next I visited the Farm where I
rambled about near Pulpit Rock and in the oak & pine woods that
border the road leading from the School house to Beards'.
Returning to Balls' Hill at 10 A.M. I found Abbott H. Thayer

at the cabin. He had arrived by the 9 A.M. train and is
to spend three days with me here. It was so very hot that
we did not go out again until late afternoon when we
visited Davis Hill.

comes to
Balls' Hill

It is no exaggeration to say that the whole country
literally swarmed with birds to-day. Ordinarily when we
have a good flight of north-bound migrants they occur
in numbers in only a few especially favored places
and are thinly scattered or quite wanting elsewhere.

Floods of
migrating,
north-bound
birds arrive.

We find them

Just to-day every piece of woods, every outlying thicket,
almost every tree and bush, was simply alive with them.
So very numerous were they that we became at times not
only confused but even positively exhausted by the nervous
strain of watching and identifying them. It was, moreover,
a surfeit of good things to have so many birds which we
are accustomed to regard as uncommon or elusive almost
constantly in sight or hearing. Most of them had been noted before

everywhere in
great numbers
& variety.

this season (i.e. as species), the only fresh arrivals being a Bay-breast
Warbler (in a pine at Pulpit Rock), an Indigo Bird, a Crested Flycatcher
and a Night-hawk. About 8 o'clock this evening we heard more
than once the hooping calls of Warblers passing overhead. These gave
evidence, of course, that at least some of the birds here to-day passed on to higher

Fresh arrivals

Migration
resumed this
evening

1900.

May 16

Concord, Mass

Bald Hill

Clear with light S.W. wind falling calm before sunset.
Ther. 54° - 73°, A perfect May day.

To-day must surely mark the high-water level of the extraordinary migration of May, 1900. I do not think that I have ever before seen so many small birds in one day in the Concord woods. They have been so evenly distributed that it is hardly worth the slightest difference when one looks for them. As they ranged through the trees & undergrowth, it was constantly assailed by the flashing thrills of song or the flashing reds, yellows, blacks & grays of the innumerable warblers that were busily engaged with Warblers as gleaming for food among the branches.

Apparent high water mark of an extraordinary bird migration. Woods &

Thayer & I were out early & late. In the morning & afternoon we visited the farm where the old apple orchard was in fullest bloom and fairly ringing with the songs of Orioles & Grosbeaks.

Visit to the Farm.

We also ranged repeatedly about Bald Hill & in the late afternoon we walked to Holden's Hill. Everywhere we went it was the same story: -

To Holden's Hill

birds almost too numerous to count or even estimate. Perhaps the most numerous of all the less common kinds were the Wilson's Black caps and Canadian Warblers. It was a particularly "great day" for them. Rather curiously, however, we heard ~~to-day~~ no Hovis which had not been previously entered on this season's list.

Everywhere myriads of little birds. Wilson's & Canadian Warblers

The White-crowned Sparrows & the two Lincoln's Finches were larger on the cabin & we heard another White-crowned Sparrow singing in the orchard on the farm.

White-cr. Sp. Lincoln's F.

Concord, Mass.

Ball's Hill

1900.

May 17

Cloudy; wind N.E. in forenoon, S.W. in afternoon, light all day. Ther. 47°-63°.

In the forenoon Thayer & I walked around Ball's Hill and through Davis's Swamp to Prescott's farm. Small birds although Field warblers were in greatly reduced numbers as compared with yesterday. Wilson's Black-caps and Canadian Warblers had however increased and there were a great many Water Thrushes and a good many Black-burnians. We saw several Black-bills (one ♀) and a pair of Black-throated Blue Warblers at the cabin.

The great
bird war
has passed
on.

In the afternoon we had dined up river to Nashawtuck Bridge where Thayer left me to take the train for his summer home at Dublin. On the way up we saw a Greater Yellow-legs, (8) (2) & (1) Least Sandpipers (all but the (1) above Frints' Bridge on the N. end of Houghbush Island), about a dozen Solitary Sandpipers and a number of Spotted Sandpipers. Of the last named I started a prodigious number (certainly 18 or 20) on my way down river at evening. Just below Hurd's I came upon a flock of 8 which I drove on before me for half-a-mile or more. All would invariably start & fly together in a rather close bunch. They were rather shy. This is an unusual experience for this season. During this evening paddles homeward I also heard a Short-billed Wood Wren in Garry's meadow, a Savanna Sparrow just above the Holt, off Eastern Rail & on Virginia Rail. I saw then Night Hawks & a flock of fully fifty Barn Swallows. There is apparently only one Northern plover on Great Meadows this spring.

Up river.

Yellow legs
Least Sandp.
Solitary "

A flock
of eight
Spotted
Sandpipers

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 17
(No 2)

The colony of Bronzed Grackles on the Hoar place appears to be fully reduced in numbers. Indeed I saw not more than four or five birds there this afternoon. W. A. Lockhart tells me that these Grackles are also very scarce in the Cambridge region this year. What can have happened to them all?

Bronzed
Grackle
colony at
the Hoar
place

At the Hedges' where I spent half-an-hour on my return I found a House Wren singing at the upper end of the orchard where there was one last year.

House Wren

The flock of Boar Swallows just mentioned were dashing about in the twilight between Bull's Hill & Boar Farm Rapid flying in a compact bunch like Sandpipers, now high in air with low over the meadows. It was quite evident that they were preparing to go to roost but I failed to find out just where.

Boar
Swallows
evidently
assembling
to roost at
evening near
Bull's Hill

White-bellied Swallows appear to be very scarce here now. I saw only three along the river this afternoon all of which, however, were probably breeding. Two were flying about the Willow Thicket on the bank of the North where they have nested for so many years, the third was perched in a dead elm above Big Rock.

Tree Swallows
scarce

I omitted to note that during our walk this morning we found a Red Crossbill & a Canada Warbler on Pine Ridge.

Red Crossbill
Canada Warbler

1900
May 18

Concord, Mass.

Ball's Hill

Cloudy, foggy, calm or with an occasional breath of E. wind.

Reassembled the Ball's Hill woods & thickets directly after breakfast. Saw or heard a few Black-polls & Yellow-rumps, a good many Wilson's Black-caps, very many Canadian Warblers, a Black-throated Blue and a Black & Yellow, a Black-chinned, an unprecedented number of Water Thrushes (at least 20) a Lincoln's Finch and a great number of common birds such as Cat birds, Red-eyed Vireos, Chestnut-sided Warblers etc.

North bound

irregular

abundant

Water Thrushes

Lincoln's Finch

The Water Thrushes were only fairly numerous along the river banks but were scattered about everywhere among the oaks on the hills & tops of the Hill. I have never known them to be so numerous here before.

Water Thrushes

A Snipe descended for nearly an hour over the marshes opposite the cabin. This was between 7 & 8 a.m. the weather foggy on the river.

Snipe drums

A Great Flycatcher perched in the top of a larch oak suddenly commenced out & caught an Alabama Butterfly. He struggled with it for several minutes repeatedly holding it against the branches, frequently clapping & releasing it finally restoring it to life & holding it.

Least

Flycatcher

Catchers &

catch a butterfly

Most of the Maryland Yellow-throats which have been so numerous here during the past week have evidently been migrants. They have been found everywhere, just as frequently on dry hillsides & tree tops as in dense, dry oak woods or in swampy places. I saw a ♀ this morning feeding in the upper branches of a rather tall white pine. The males have been silent as a rule.

Migrating

Maryland

Yellow-throats

on dry,

wooded,

hillsides

Concord, Mass.

"The Farm"

1900.

May 18

(1902)

At 8 a. m. I drove to the farm where I spent two hours. The woods, thickets & orchards were humming with birds among which were Paula, Black-burnian, Black & Yellow, Black-poll & Black-throated Blue Warblers, Redstarts, and Winter Wrenblers. From beneath a fallen elm branch chiefly in front of the barn I started a Lincoln's Finch Lincoln's F. and an adult Winter-throated Sparrow. The Lincoln's was White-cr. Sp. very tame & I got a close view of him at a distance of less than 20 feet.

But the best bird of all remains to be mentioned. Cape May I was standing behind the house when in an Warbler at apple tree covered with honey blossoms a short distance the form off I heard a Warbler sing several times in quick succession. & by its notes at once recognized it as a Cape May. On hurrying to the tree I found the bird at the end of a low branch hopping about among the tufts of blossoms which it was pecking with its bill after the manner of an Oriole. I watched it closely for 15 or 20 minutes during which time it remained on the branch where I first saw it. (Albert Thayer says that this species will often spend a whole day in one tree & this I remember observing in a blossoming cherry tree at Watertown, Mass in 1869). It was more active than a Black-poll, but less than most other Warblers. It was very tame. Its plumage was of about average brightness. Its song was Teet, Teet, Teet, Teet very like a Black-poll's but louder & more vigorous in quality. I left the bird in his beautiful setting of apple blossoms.

Two Wood Thrushes were in fresh condition

Concord, Mass.

Bald Hill.

1900

May 18
(No 3)

song at the farm, one in the orchard was front
of the barn, the other in the run.

I heard three Golden-winged Woodpeckers, two at
the farm, one in an elm behind Thomas's house.

Golden wing
Woodpeckers

During the past four days we have had constantly
in front of the cabin two Lincoln's Finches & a White-
crowned Sparrow. which one of the Lincoln's was here seven

Lincoln's
Finch &
White Cr.
Sparrows

days, arriving on the 11th. All three of these birds departed
last night the Lincoln's which I saw this morning
being half way between the cabin & the barn &
evidently a wood corner. The three birds which have
been playing with us so long have been fed bountifully
with millet seed and by this potent attraction have
been kept constantly within the confines of the narrow
belt of bushes which extend from the corner fire to
the old landing a distance of about thirty yards.

The Lincoln's Finch which arrived on the 11th was from
the first so exceptionally tame & confiding as to lead
me to believe that he was the same individual which
spent his days in the same place last year. This
spring he has been as kind and phlegmatic as our
average Song Sparrow. He has sung freely but I have
heard him give only the June Song (both forms), the
Horn Wren song & those of the ^{Purple Finch} ~~song~~ ^{field} ~~song~~ ^{Wren}.

His rendering of ~~our~~ ^{the} ~~three~~ ^{stark} ~~Phoebe~~ ^{Phoebe}, who has
belonged to him with great interest, as being more
or less spiritualized the song of the Purple Finch in special
being infinitely finer in quality than that of its real author
though very different in tone. ^{Expressive delivery of treacherous}
^{to be the chief characteristic of this Lincoln's Sparrow's rendering}
of all his themes had that of the Jones which is as woody

Concord, Mass.

1900

May 18
(No 4)

and unmistakable as when given by Jones himself.
To put the matter in another way the Lincoln's Finch
seems to transfer & refine most of the songs which he
borrows from other birds brushing through them a
delicacy of treatment peculiarly his own. On several
occasions yesterday morning when the air was calm
& the bird singing on the ground within 15 feet of
us & in plain sight it seemed to me that I
had never before listened to any bird whose I
extremely refined & charming.

This pretentious Lincoln's Finch has displayed
a bullying spirit on many occasions during the
the last few days the Swamp Sparrows which tend to
get their share of the abundant food but being
himself easily driven by the Song & Winter-throated
Sparrows.

I have heard one Winter-crowned Sparrow sing
many times these past few days, usually in the
early morning. His song seemed to me most like
that of the Peewee bird beginning in almost
exactly the same form & then but ending more
abruptly. I have heard a Peewee bird sing very
much the same notes in autumn or winter.

But probably this Winter-crown was not
really singing himself out although another
at the same time gave a closely similar song.
altogether in fact only four or five notes. I
should under it hee, hee, hee, hee.

Ball's Hill.

Songs of
Lincoln's
Finch

Song of the
White-crowned
Sparrow.

Concord, Mass.

1960

May 18
(No 5)

In the early afternoon, after the preceding page was written, hordes of Water Thrushes appeared near the cabin. A few clung to the moist thickets by the river side where they belonged by right but the greater number rambled all over the hillside around & behind the cabin while a few broke thrushes to the tops of the leafless oaks where they trilled merrily among the branches feeding in company with a number of Dendragapus. Several ascended the stone steps in front of the cabin & peeped into one open door curiously. They were surely all remarkably tame & far from those obvious nervousness that usually distinguishes their kind. They were continuously quarreling with one another & I witnessed several encounters where two birds would cluck back and forth together among the dry oak leaves.

Balls Hill.

A
swarm of
Water Thrushes,
behaving
oddly.

At about 3 P.M. a pair of *Thryothorus* appeared Alder in the oak in front of our door where it Thryothorus.
sat for a minute or two calling peep and
then uttering a prolonged succession of slight
but rather unusual whistling notes given very
rapidly. This I have heard before but not
often.

Nauset Island, Mass.

1900

May 20, 21

I went to Nauset on the afternoon of the 19th and returned to Cambridge on the morning of the 22nd spending the interim in the home of the late Mr. William Forbes as the guest of Mr. Edward W. Emerson, the Forbes family being absent.

The 20th was clear in the early morning, cloudy the remainder of the day with strong, cool S. W. winds. Mr. Emerson & I drove about through the woods in the forenoon going as far W. as the beginning of the "Desert". In the afternoon we walked to the north shore where we saw an unusually fine sunset.

The 21st was clear and just warm enough to be comfortable, but the wind in exposed places was keen & piercing. I was out all the forenoon with my camera driving about through the wood lands over the same ground covered yesterday morning.

Birds were numerous & singing freely the whole forenoon to that I think I must have noted at least all the common species.

In the afternoon Mr. Emerson accompanied me on a long & delightful drive. We followed the road along the S. shore as far as the Desert which, we crossed diagonally nearly to its western extremity returning by the north shore road and reaching the house shortly after sunset.

During this drive we passed around the rearing plantations of brown made by the late Mr. John Forbes. It is hopelessly rank & flourishing although some of the plants are killed down to the ground every winter. A few of them were in bloom at the time of our visit.

The woods
"Desert"
North shore

A forenoon
spent alone
in the
woods.

A long
drive about
the island
with Mr.
Emerson.

Tree plantations
made by Mr.
John Forbes

Naushton Island, Mass.

1909

May 20, 21

(No 2)

The woods of Naushton cover rather more than half the island. They are extremely interesting as well as beautiful from the fact that they have never been cleared nor, to any extent, planned or otherwise tampered with by man. Even the fallen trees are in most cases left untouched and in places they cover the ground almost as thickly as in the main woods. But the Deer not only keep down the undergrowth but also clip off the ends of the drooping branches as high as they can reach. The result is that when there are neither boulders nor protruding tree trunks the ^{space} ground under the trees to about the height of a man's head is absolutely clear of bushes or herbs and the surface of the ground a plain brown carpet of dead leaves undisturbed by vegetation of any kind. At least this would be the first impression of a casual observer but on looking closely I found everywhere countless shoots of spruce or suckling saplings clipped off an inch or so above the ground by the Deer and as clearly as if cut by sharp pruning shears. It is evident that if the Deer were destroyed the woods would become filled with undergrowth & saplings in the course of a few seasons. As they are at present they probably closely resemble the original forests which once covered most of Cape Cod and its neighboring islands. They are so open beneath that horsemen can and do ride through them almost anywhere at full speed and when the ground was not too rocky or uneven we had little difficulty in driving about in our buggies.

The trees are of large size considering the poverty

The woods
of Naushton.

Nauset Island, Mass.

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 3)

of the soil which is nearly everywhere thin & sandy. The prevailing kinds of trees are beeches and oaks of various species among which I recognized only the white, red and scarlet (the leaves were not sufficiently large to be available for nice discriminations). There were also a good many hop hornbushes and in the swamps red maples and tupelos. I saw specimens of the last-named species which were fully two feet in diameter & fifty or seventy feet high. Among the smaller trees the holly, flowering dog-wood, and the smooth-barked form of the black ash were not uncommon. I saw no chestnuts and the only pines found on the island are a few hundred *Pinus rigida* which Mr. John Forbes planted on the desert forty or more years ago. The red cedar is represented by a few scattered specimens and the white cedar is said to occur in some of the swamps both species being indigenous.

Prevailing
kinds of
trees in
Nauset
woods.

The wooded swamps, unlike the upland forests, are so choked with underbrush and overgrown with cut grass as to be practically impenetrable except by the deer who traverse them freely at all times and find a more or less safe shelter in them during the autumn hunts. Why they do not clip off the branches & young shoots in these swamps is a mystery.

Wooded
swamps.

Throughout both upland and swampy woods but especially in the latter the trees are shaped in *Ulna* which gives them a wind & ancient appearance.

Ulna

There are very many dead and hollow trees everywhere and there should be many *Strophomena* but I saw only Flickers & Downys & then not in seasonal numbers. Dead & hollow trees

Nantuxet Island, Mass.

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 4)

The entire part of the island from shore to shore Green
and Corytharia for a distance of rather more than a mile plains &
is open and rolling with practically no trees save the pines woods.
already mentioned, some Coccoloba (also planted by Mr. Forbes)
and, in the hollows, an occasional cluster of bushes.

There are many large boulders scattered about. The soil
is very sandy and supports only a scanty growth of
wild grasses, Hudsonia, and various plants which flourish
in such barren places. There are also extensive patches
of Bayberry and hackberry bushes.

At the north-eastern end of the island the grounds
immediately about the houses have been highly cultivated
for many years and ^{here} in addition to Corn and various
other kinds of shrubs and fruit bushes, and other
species of trees not native to the island.

Cultivated
areas.

There are a great many small shallow ponds
scattered about through the woods and near the
houses two or three large & deep wells to contain
a good number & variety of fresh-water fishes.

Ponds.

I saw only one marsh and that did not extend a
down over in extent. It contained a patch of
Phragmites and the rose willows is said to
abound about its edges.

In connection with what I have said of the
trees I should have mentioned that along the
edges of the woods, especially near the shores, there
are many oaks & bushes of unusually distorted shapes.
Some have low, flat, or umbrella-shaped tops; others
spread out or extend in one direction only, close to
the ground. The wind evidently shears or presses
them down.

Trees kept
pruned by
the winds.

Nauset Island, Mass.

1900.

May 20, 21
(ms 5)

The most numerous and characteristic birds of the old oak & birch woods are Wilson's Thrushes, Chickadees, Winter-breasted Nuthatches, Black & White Crows, House Wrens, ^{Numerous} ~~characteristic~~ ^{birds} Redstarts, Oven birds, Red-eyed Vireos, Great Crested Flycatchers, Wood Pewees, and Downy Woodpeckers; of the wooded swamps House Wrenblers and Maryland Yellow-throats; of the cultivated grounds about the houses Robins, Yellow Warblers & Chipping Sparrows; of bricky thickets about the cultivated grounds, along the wood edges & in hollows were the Shore, Bat birds, Wilson's Thrushes, Redstarts, and Towhees; of the open downs, Grass Finches. In the patches of rank grass Wilson's Thrushes & Towhees swarmed. I saw nothing else there except a single Prairie Warbler.

The following is a complete list of all the species that I noted during my visit: -

Complete
List of
birds noted

1. Muscula nigritarsis. - Very common about the houses and sparingly distributed over the greater part of the island. One was sitting on a nest built on a rafters under the eave of the house of Mr. Wm. Fisher's house.
2. Lundus forficatus. - Abundant throughout the birch & oak woods as well as in bricky thickets near the shore. Singing freely.
3. Golomictes arcticus. - Abundant in bricky thickets near the shore & along the wood edges.

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 6)

4. Harporhynchus rufus. - Only one noted, a ♂ singing in oak scrub near the water shore on the evening of the 21st.
5. Parus atricapillus. - Common throughout the wooded portions of the island. All that I heard whistling gave the ordinary phoe-be note without the additional yellow whistles used by the birds on Martha's Vineyard.
6. Sitta carolinensis. - Common throughout the open woods. The fine old oaks and beeches with their massive trunks, untimmed branches and numerous cavities afford unlimited feeding & nesting accommodations for these Nuthatches & they are more numerous here than I have ever found them elsewhere in Massachusetts save perhaps on Mt. Gaylock.
7. Minutilla varia. - Abundant in the old woods where they seemed to be settled for the season.
8. Empidonax a. usneae. - Abundant throughout the open woods and wooded trunks where the trees, everywhere, were thickly hung with Usnea. I have little doubt that the birds I saw were settled for the summer. They would have to go far to find a better breeding ground.

Nantuxen Island, Mass.

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 7)

9. Dendroica virens. - One heard singing on the 21st in the heart of the old oak & birch woods which do not include conifers of any kind. It is not unlikely that the bird was a migrant or it may have strayed from the pitch pine woods further to the westward.
10. " Strides. - Two ♂♂ singing in the old woods. These were the only migratorized north land migrants that I found during my stay.
11. " Aestiva. - Abundant in the cultivated grounds & singing thrushes were the honors at the N. E. end of the island but not seen elsewhere.
12. " discolor. - One singing in the house on the evening of the 21st. In view of the remarkable abundance of this warbler on Martha's Vineyard it should be at least common here. There are plenty of favorable places for it to breed in oak scrub near the shore.
13. Geothlypis trichas. - Abundant in singing thrushes. A few heard singing in the brown plantations.
14. Setophaga ruticilla. - Common throughout the wooded parts of the island.
15. Seiurus aurocapillus. - Common in the upland woods.

1900.

May 20, 21

(no 8)

16. Vireo olivaceus. - Common throughout the woods.
17. Hirundo erythrogastrus. - About a dozen flying about near the houses & nesting, I think, in one of the barns.
18. Petrochelidon lunifrons. - One seen with Barn Swallows on the 20th.
19. Trochocitta bicolor. - One seen near the house on the 20th.
20. Piranga erythrorhynchos. - An adult ♂ seen on the 20th and another heard singing the following day, both in the open oak & beech woods where they ought to be numerous.
21. Corpodacus purpureus. - One in full song on the 21st at the edge of the oak & beech woods bordering the beach & about half-a-mile from the pitch pines.
22. Spinus tristis. - Four seen near the houses.
23. Poocetes gramineus. - Three ♂♂ heard singing, one in a pasture near the houses, the other two on the downs of the beach.
24. Melospiza fasciata. - Very common especially near the houses & along the shore.

Nantuxon Island, Mass.

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 9)

25. Spiraea vocalis. - Common near the house & sparingly distributed over the "Desert".
26. Passer domesticus. - About a dozen seen near the house and a few found along the edges of the Desert, a mile or more from any habitation of man.
27. Pipilo erythrophthalmus. - Literally swarming over the whole island where it is vegetation, even in the open oak & buck woods, & for the most numerous of the land birds. I have never seen it in such abundance elsewhere excepting on Martha's Vineyard.
28. Agelaius phoeniceus. - Common about the more open swamps & marshy places.
29. Luscinia g. aeneus (!). A few Grosbeaks (perhaps from or for pairs) which were apparently breeding in some Scotch (!) pines near the old Fort or "Mansion" house looked to me like aeneus but I was unable to examine any of them very closely.
30. Corvus americanus. - Common.
31. Cyanocitta cristata. Two heard screaming in the old woods.
32. Hyeronax tyrannus. - Three seen.

1900.

May 20, 21

(No 10)

33. Myiarchus cinerascens. - Common throughout the old oak & buck woods which are in very good condition for its requirements.
34. Contopus virens. - Very common in the open oak & buck woods. Indeed I do not think I have ever seen the bird elsewhere in such numbers excepting near Long Brook, Conn.
35. Colaptes auratus. - Several heard "chattering" in the upland woods and then a few seen on the "Deer".
36. Dryobates p. nortoni. - Common throughout the old woods but not so numerous as one might expect it to be where the conditions are so very favorable to its requirements.
37. Ceryle alcyon. - One seen at the pond behind Mr. William Forbes's house.
38. Colinus virginianus. - Four ♂♂ heard whistling "to-be-whit" and a pair of birds flushed.
39. Ardea herodias. - A pair of ♂♂ came close about the house several times daily beating through some nearby willows. We also saw a ♀ on the "Deer".

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 11)

40. Oidemia dyblundi. - An immature ♂ seen in Woods Hole ✓
on the afternoon of the 19th

41. Larus a. bairdianus. - An immature bird flying
about one a mile west the house on the 21st

42. Sterna berndi. - Common all about the island, &
a little more on the N. Shore several
hundreds were collected over a school of
fish on the evening of the 21st, dozens plunging
into the water or over to the combined flock
keeping up a shrill & continuous clamor.
I often heard the cries of these passing overhead
when I was in the heart of the woods in
the center of the island.

43. Sterna bergii. - I heard the calls of several of these
birds in the great flock of S. bergii
seen on the 21st

44. Uria lomvia. - One seen flying over the island
on the 20th

Additional species said to sometimes occur on Nantuxon are:

Colinus virginianus. - Occasionally seen in autumn. - Wells & Fiske.

Sturnella magna. - Formerly numerous but practically if
not absolutely exterminated by being caught
in steel traps set for Hawks on the tops
of poles. - Wells & Fiske.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 22

Clear and cool with strong N.W. wind.

Left Newton early this morning and reached Cambridge shortly before noon.

On entering the garden I heard two Robins calling ^a Whippoorwill in shrill, anxious tones in the tall apple tree just behind the bloss. Suspecting that they had discovered a cat I searched the neighboring bushes & clusters of hemlocks but without finding anything. The Robins continued their clamor, however, so I got the dogs & worked them all through the garden but they showed no signs of finding any ground scent. After dinner it occurred to me that there might be an Owl in the apple tree so I scanned it branch by branch with the greatest care. At length my eye was arrested by a lump on the upper side of a stout limb & putting the glass on it I at once saw that it was a ♀ Whippoorwill, crouched lengthwise with the branch and holding up her head in a rather unusual way. I exposed two plates on her with sufficiently good results to show her attitude & the elevation of the head just mentioned. She remained on the branch during the afternoon & the Robins continued to expostulate at her presence there. No doubt, being unsophisticated city birds, they really took her for an Owl. I doubt if a country Robin would make the same mistake.

North Scituate, Mass.

1900.
May 23

Clear, rather hazy, warmer but with chill E. wind.

I came here late yesterday afternoon and spent the night at the Chubbins'. The object of this visit was to see and photograph a Brown Creeper's nest which Arthur Chubbins found in the big cedar swamp a week or so ago. It was built not under a scale of bark, as is usually the case, but in the main trunk of a tall white cedar which had been blown partly over and split lengthwise for several feet above the ground. My pictures will show the character of the opening better than I can describe it. I spent upwards of two hours in talking. Then and got two or three good but clear impressions of the ♀ Creeper clinging to the trunk near the nest which contained four young two or three days old. The ♀ parent visited them with food every two or or three minutes slipping into the cleft a foot or two above the nest & then descending to it head first. She obtained the food in the usual way by running up the trunk of the tree & pecking out larvae or grubs of some kind with her slender bill. All the morsels that she brought were small & were held in the tips of her mandibles. Usually she went not more than 20 yards away in her quest for food. The ♂ came with her to the nest several times & once brought food but after holding it in his bill for several minutes finally dropped it. He sang only twice in my hearing. The nest was about 5 feet above the ground. The tree stood on the edge of a small clearing.

Nest of
Brown
Creeper

North Scituate, Mass.

1900.

May 23
(No 2.)

While driving from the Station Cart coming in
saw a pair of Quail running about in a plowed field
just over a wall from the road. I have seldom had
such a good view of these birds. They were feeding
and moved about rather slowly, very like Chukars,
picking up small objects perhaps seeds - or larvae - or
bits of gravel. Another Quail was whistling on
the edge of the swamp this evening.

Quail
feeding.

Wood Thrushes are very numerous in the woods
on the Chubbins' farm. They were singing in
every direction last evening & again this evening.

Wood
Thrushes.

There was a Great Crested Flycatcher in
the apple orchard behind the house.

Crested
Flycatcher.

In the cedar swamp I heard a Canadian
Warbler & a Black-throated Blue. These being the
only warblers I have noted although Chubbins
says that there was a honey bird over passing
yesterday in the wall where he saw a Bay-breasted
Warbler, White-crowned Sparrows etc.

I returned to Cambridge late this afternoon

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 24, 25

The 24th was cloudy, the 25th fair but very hazy.
A chill E. wind was blowing on both days.

I was working in the garden during the greater part of both days and on both days in addition to the regular resident summer species the following North-bound birds: A Gray-chubbed Thrush, a Swainson's Thrush, migrants in the garden a pair of Canadian Warblers, a pair of Maryland Yellow-Throats, an Oven-bird and a Water Thrush. The Gray-chubbed Thrush and the Swainson's both sang a little at evening on the 25th.

Alice's &
Swainson's
Thrushes sing.

1900.

May 26

Concord, Mass.

Ball's Hill

Fair the sun shining dimly at intervals but most of the time hidden behind thin clouds. Cool with light E. wind. Ther. 36° - 48°.

After a weeks absence from Concord I returned to the cabin this morning by the 8.34 train. Found Water Thrushes, Canadian Warblers and Black-poll Warblers in great numbers along the river front of Ball's Hill. There were also a few Wilson's Black-cops, a single Black & Yellow Warbler and two Trails' Flycatchers. All the other northern migrants had apparently departed. The only Sparrows that I could find were a pair of Song Sparrows.

North bound
migrants
abundant.

Alder
Flycatcher.

Visited the farm in the forenoon. A Wood Thrush was calling near the barn and two Golden-winged Woodpeckers were busy within hearing of the house. There were a few Black-polls in the orchard & the usual assortment of common house birds. The Great Crested Flycatcher was present & as noisy as usual. The men told me that a "Haw Hawk" stooped at a Pigeon that was sitting on the edge of the door late the other day. The Hawk was probably a Cooper's although the men insist that it was a very large bird. The Phoebe were at the house and I heard one of them under the eaves.

Birds noted
at
"the farm."

Crested Flycatcher

Hawk stoops
at a Pigeon.

Phoebe &
nest.

Later in the afternoon I saw a large Gray chubbed Thrush & an Olive back near the cabin. Another Olive-back was calling at evening. At sunset a flock of 12 night hawks passed over Ball's Hill flying northward but lingering over the swamp to hunt for insects. As twilight was falling a single diamond shaped vireo nearly over the cabin.

Alice's Thrush
Swarms of
Night hawks
migrating
at sunset.

Screech
owls

1900.

May 27

Concord, Mass.Ball's Hill

Clear & warmer; nearly dead calm all day. Ther. 41°-77°.

Off with the camera directly after breakfast. First visited and photographed a Partridge's nest containing 9 eggs. It is on the western edge of the swamp behind Ball's Hill at the foot of a steep slope covered with cotton tail oaks. The nest is composed of and lined with oak leaves. It is very deeply hollowed and is placed at the foot of a sapling near the stem of a large oak. A few leafy maple twigs hang over & partly cover it. I was struck by the close resemblance between the color of the eggs & that of the bleached oak leaves in & about the nest. The bird was absent at 8 a.m. but when I visited the nest at 1 P.M. she was sitting. She allowed me to approach within about 5 feet and then taking them a few quick steps ran & flew out of sight. Gilbert found this nest May 11th when it contained its full complement of 9 eggs. The eggs were not covered when I made my first visit this morning although the bird must have been away getting her breakfast.

Partridge's
nest with
9 eggs.

I was in the Ball's & Davis's Hill woods practically the whole forenoon. At least on half of the western wingpoints which were here yesterday had departed this morning. I saw a Killdeer & Geopelia which was calling high at the E. end of Ball's Hill and heard another going the song (gee-wee-lay) at those intervals & with great vigor in the thickets which border the meadow at the S. end of Davis's Hill. On the latter hill a Canada Warbler Canada was whining and a Black-burnian Warbler Warbler was singing. I heard Black-burnian in Ball's Hill swamp.

Alder Fly-
catcher.

Combed the reeds at evening but found nothing of interest on the W. Bedford side.

Concord, Mass.

Ball's Hill.

1900.

May 28

Cloudy & cool with chill E. wind; clearing at sunset.

There were few birds in the Ball's Hill woods to-day save Birds noted
over the river at the S.W. end of the hill where 6 or 8 Hutton's Vireos, at Ball's H.
at least 25 Black-poll Warblers (the majority ♀♀), about half-a-dozen
Canadian Woodpeckers, 2 Hairy Flycatchers, a Least Flycatcher, 2 Wood Alder Flycatchers
Peewees, a Swainson's Thrush, a Black & Yellow Warbler and several
Redstarts, Black & White Creepers & Oven birds spent the entire
day searching for food low down in bushes & among the smaller
oaks. At evening Wilson's Thrushes were singing freely in every Wilson's Thrushes
direction for the first time this season. There was also general begin singing
& spirited singing on the part of Towhees, Grosbeaks, Oven birds
& many others of the common summer residents of this area. At
least 5 Carolina Robins were calling ee-e on the Great Meadows
their voices blending with those of Hoppers & making a
continuous volume of sound. Carolina
Robins.

Visiting the farm this morning I traversed the woods Birds at
from the road through to Purple Rock and where the red pines "The Farm"
grow. Birds were very numerous but there was little singing.

Near the Rock, however, in the dense pines along the path Bay breasted W.
to Birch Field I heard a Bay-breasted Warbler in full song & while searching the tree tops for him saw a ♀ of
the same species. In the same part of the woods a Black &
Yellow Warbler was singing lustily & in frequency.

Three Golden-winged Warblers were singing, one in the orchard, Golden-winged W.
another in the hemlock near the red pines, the third
west of the road opposite the house. The Great Crested
Flycatcher was calling in the orchard near the house
where I also heard a Purple Finch, a Chipping, Least Flycatcher &
Black-poll Warblers were scattered about everywhere. Black-poll

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 28
(No 2.)

"The Farm"

A hen

Portridge

with young.

The most interesting affair of the day was meeting ^{4 days old} with a hen Portridge accompanied by her brood of 10 young ^{about}. I came upon her suddenly among thin birches at the foot of the lane on the farm. She rose within ten feet of me, flew slowly about ten yards, dropped on the ground & lay prostrate beating her wings feebly but incessantly making all the while a plaintive, shrill c-c-c-cccc, c-c-c-cccc - a sort of hissing whine. Knowing that she must have young I scanned the spot from which she had risen with the utmost care. At first I could see nothing but thin interlaid grass & scattered birch leaves. Then by degrees I made out the young standing (were squinting) perfectly motionless in thin clusters or bunches a foot or so apart.

No sooner had I done this than they, evidently recognizing the fact that they were discovered, started off in every direction running very swiftly & jumping feebly like young chickens. Most of them stopped & squatted suddenly under leaves or tufts of grass after going a rod or two but one kept on until he came to a stone wall into which he plunged headlong. I kept on one a knoll & sat down.

In less than a minute after I had done this the hen Portridge ceased whining and with firm rapid steps walked directly to the spot where I had first flushed her. The next minute she began calling ank, ank, ank almost exactly like a White Bellied Nuthatch. Almost immediately the young appeared from their hiding places and scudded in silence to their anxious mother. It was a pretty sight to see them again but so quickly & confidently but unfortunately I could not see just what they or she did when they reached her as a bush intervened.

She ceased calling in less than two minutes after she began. A minute later I went to the spot but the whole family had disappeared.

1900.

May 29

Concord, Mass.

Ball's Hill

Weather.

A perfect day, cloudless with almost no wind. Very cold last night. The farmers in land report ice & the probable loss of the Strawberry crop. Ther. at cabin 35°-73°.

I was in the woods on and about Ball's Hill most of the forenoon and in the afternoon visited Davis's Hill. Apparently all the birds which were here yesterday arrived one and an immense number arrived from the South during the night. At least the woods were swarming with birds to-day throughout the Ball's & Davis's Hill region. Most of the unmistakable northern migrants were Black-bills, Canadian Hawks and House Thrushes. I saw at least fifty individuals of each of the first two, the majority being females. There were two large Gray-checked Thrushes and an Olive-back at Ball's Hill. Travel's Flycatchers were scattered about also, the river front & across the river as the West Redford shore. I could not count them accurately as they were continually shifting from place to place but there were certainly three or four. I wonder if the reason why they are such late migrants is that they do not like to move westward until the thickets are in nearly full leaf. Fair August and love of concealment would suggest such an inference. I did not succeed in catching sight of one to-day although I tried repeatedly to follow up the peep call which was so constantly in my ears.

North-bound
Warblers,
Thrushes etc
arrive from
the South in
extraordinary
numbers &
variety.

Shortly after breakfast I started a beautiful adult ♂ Mourning
Warbler directly in front of the cabin. An hour later I saw him half way to the boat and in the afternoon the Misses White & I found him in the swampy thicket E. of the cabin. He was silent, sluggish & very tame allowing an approach to within three or four

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill.

1900.

May 29
(Sat.)

yards. He spent most of his time on the ground pecking over the soggy dead leaves near the edge of the river but once he mounted into some alders and flitted from twig to twig jumping up after insects which were clinging to the under sides of the leaves above him.

As I have already said I saw during the day at least 50 Canadian Warblers a number wholly unprecedented in my previous experience. They were simply everywhere in the greatest abundance of course in the swamps and dense thickets near the river but by no means uncommon on the sides & even tops of the hills where I noticed several feeding high up in oaks & pines in company with the equally numerous Black-bills. It is easy to recognize the Canadian Warbler at a distance or in a poor light by his abrupt, jilly movements & especially by the frequent, nervous, upward twitches of his long tail.

The Water Thrushes were also scattered about everywhere on the sides & tops of the hills in the largest possible quantities. That this was due not to individual choice but to the overabundance of the swampy thickets was evident for I repeatedly saw birds fly from the side of Balls Hill into the thickets along the river & the next instant return hotly pursued by another Water Thrush whose haunts they had invaded. In other words each bird in the river thickets evidently monopolized & strongly defended a certain portion of these especially chosen feeding grounds. One or two Water Thrushes were singing near the cabin in the early morning but they have been more silent this spring than is usually the case.

Canadian
Warblers.
^{the}
unprecedented
numbers

Water Thrushes
in dry
woods on
tops & sides
of hills.

Concord, Mass.

1900

May 29
(no 3)

Balls Hill.

Nest of
Nashville
Warbler.

A Nashville Warbler has been singing persistently on Balls Hill for the past week or more & I have suspected that he must be breeding here. This afternoon C. stumbled on the nest which to my surprise was near the middle of the large opening between the Hill & the house at least fifteen yards from the nearest tree or bush but admirably concealed in the middle of a tussock of Andropogon grass which was drawn over the nest in such a way as to perfectly conceal it from above as well as from either side. On the fourth side there was a short archway turned a passage by which the bird entered & left the nest. She did not flush until C. stopped within about two feet of her. The nest contained 5 eggs which looked perfectly fresh. (The above was written from memory; visiting the nest next day I found close above it a few straggling *Spiza salicifolia* & a few ^{not 20, 50 ft})

As I was sitting in the woods behind the wood shed this afternoon I saw a ♀ Tanager making frequent trips to & from her nest carrying to it balls full of fine dry grass which she obtained in the neighboring field. The mate, a high-colored bird, did nothing to help her save by hanging close about the nest & fiercely attacking every bird that happened to approach it. His onslaughts on a Chickadee who attempted to visit a few times in the nest ten were most energetic & to murderous - leaving that I half expected to see the innocent little offender mutilated & slain.

Tanager ♀
"work
on her nest."

Robins are breeding everywhere about us now.
We have found three nests within fifty yards of the cabin.

1900

May 26-29

Wellesley Hills & Wayland, Mass.

BOSTON EVENING TRANSCRIPT, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1900

THE CLERK OF THE WOODS

By the last week of May the grand procession of migratory birds (and a wonderful, imagination-stirring procession it is, if one stops to consider it) has mostly gone by; but even then every day may be trusted to furnish some agreeable excitement to a man who keeps his eyes open. This year, for example, I returned from New Hampshire on the 25th, and woke the next morning to find Canadian warblers singing under my windows. They had been numerous among the mountains for several days before I came away, but here was another detachment of the host still making the journey.

I went out as soon as possible to see them, but was barely on the piazza before the brief, cool song of a mourning warbler, out of a clump of gray birches opposite the steps, made me oblivious to everything beside. This was a voice I had listened for in vain in New Hampshire, where I had rather confidently counted upon hearing it. After allowing the bird to repeat the strain a few times (with experience one grows thrifty in such matters) I stole forward, hoping to see him, for on all accounts he is well worth looking at; and I did see him, but only in flight. Before I had settled upon his exact whereabouts he took wing, and though I hastened in pursuit I failed to find him.

Perhaps I should have found him, for he was not likely to go far, but just then, from a bit of roadside thicket which I have before mentioned as a birdy spot, a water thrush announced himself, and I turned my steps in that direction. Here were not only the water thrush, sleek and shiny as ever, and two or three Canada geese, but a scarce mourning warbler. This one, fortunately, I approached without startling, and examined him at my pleasure. Crape was as becoming to him, I thought, as it ever was to a young widow; and then I pleased myself by remembering that two mourning warblers in one day were twice as many as I had ever seen before in Massachusetts, even in the course of a whole migration. The species is really pretty rare with us in spring, and is never seen in autumn—at all events I have never seen it at that season. With its congener, the Connecticut warbler, these conditions are curiously reversed. I almost always see a few specimens in the fall, but have never met with one in the spring. If I had been left to draw my own conclusions, I fear I should have assumed that the birds—which closely resemble each other—were all of one species, such differences as there were being chargeable to difference of season.

Before night it appeared that olive-backed thrushes, also, were still passing. One sang to me, and showed himself, on my way home from the railway station at noon. And he sang quite as well as his mates had been doing in New Hampshire. The hermit's music is better, no doubt; but what a loss it would be if instead of two species we had only one; if all the olive-backs were converted into hermits. Variety with a measure of inferiority is better than monotonous perfection. Canadian warblers were more abundant, I thought, than I had ever seen them before, except, perhaps, at Highlands, North Carolina, where miles on miles of rhododendron and laurel thickets along all the mountain streams make a covert exactly to their liking.

The next day the story was the same: Canada warblers all about me, olive-backed thrushes whistling and singing, a Wilson's blackcap putting himself out of breath, as usual, and a single mourning warbler feeding in a low, swampy tangle down into which I looked from the highway—one of the two birds of the day before, for aught I could tell. The same or another, I was glad enough to see him. Before this, however, I had passed three mourning doves, birds that I had never happened to see before in this township. Two hours later they were still in the same grove, and there I heard one of them cooing softly in the afternoon. It was Sunday, and I remembered the scripture text, "The voice of the turtle is heard in the land." I should love to hear it oftener. The place was not one for doves to summer in, however, and I have seen nothing of them since.

Tuesday, the 29th, I paid a forenoon visit to Wayland. After the mountains I wished to see those broad river meadows. And gloriously beautiful they were, the sunshine streaming into them, and the bobolinks rising out of them in rapid-beating wings, to express at once their own felicity and mine. They could not sing fast enough nor long enough. After every pause they must begin again. Few birds are so carried away with lyrical ecstasies. Kingbirds are little behind them, perhaps; but the kingbird has no singing voice, and can utter his madness only in formless twitters and crazy aerial antics.

As I crossed the river, walking between rows of freshly green willows, I found Canada warblers, Northern water thrushes and whispering blackpolls still keeping me company. From a luxuriant growth of tall reeds, close by the water's edge, came the brief, lively gurgle of long-billed marsh wrens; and once in a while the birds threw themselves a few feet into the air, sang their little tune all in a breath, and dropped again out of sight. It is a pretty home they live in. They ought to be happy. Their neighbors, the short-bills, seemed not to have come. I stopped in the old places to listen for them, putting my hands behind my ears, but could hear nothing.

Many cliff swallows were gathering clay for their nests, holding their wings upright over their backs with a tremulous, shivering motion, to keep them out of the mud—one of the prettiest, sights imaginable. Kingbirds were chasing crows across the meadows—half for the fun of it, I guessed—cuckoos of both kinds were most uncommonly numerous, and alder flycatchers—Northern birds which I too seldom see in this latitude—were calling quay-quer in several places. (They arrived—or began to call—at Mooshaunk on the 24th.)

The weather was of the finest, and the grass of the greenest. There had been a severe frost the night before, but, as a farmer said when I asked him about it, it had probably done no great damage, because there had been so many frosts of late that there was nothing left for this one to kill. The face of nature had not been scarred, at all events. It was never more radiant. Thoreau himself, when he used to pull his boat up this river, never saw the world about him more beautiful.

I wonder whether he sometimes left his boat against the bank, and walked up and down the village street; and, if he did,

whether he used to notice, as I always do, a certain bright window garden in one of the older houses. I dare say house and garden were both there in his time. Yesterday the lady was tending the plants as I went by, and I took only such a glance as a man may take without rudeness; but in that one look I saw a thing that pleased me—a very handsome specimen of a very old-fashioned flower, a calceolaria. "Carpet-bag flower," I used to hear it called in the old days. It was much esteemed then, but seems to have gone largely out of vogue of recent years. Strange how fashion alters about plants as about everything else.

This Wayland specimen carried me back to another window garden, which I used to enjoy from the inside, and felt proud to see passers-by stopping to admire. If I seemed to do something very like that yesterday, the good lady pardoned me. I am sure; and if by any chance she should read this paragraph, I trust her to take it kindly. It is a wise provision of Providence that house plants must be set in the window for the sake of the sun, and being there, they are of necessity visible to all who are wise enough to look up as they pass.

The horse-chestnut trees are just now celebrating their annual festa, such as it is, with all their candles lighted. Pretty stuff, some people call them, a little dis-

dainfully; but for my own part I still say, let us be thankful for variety. The elm may be more graceful than the horse-chestnut, but I vote for both.

BRADFORD TORREY

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill

1906

May 30

Clear in A.M., cloudy in later P.M. Strong S.W. wind.
Ther. 48° - 78°.

The only northern bird singing near the cabin in the early morning was a Black-poll Warbler; but immediately after breakfast the 3 Mourning Warblers which were here yesterday appeared again in front of our door and on taking a walk along the river path to the barn and back around the E. end of the Hill I saw or heard 3 or 4 Water Thrushes, about a dozen Black-polls, 9 or 10 Canadian Warblers, a ♂ & ♀ Wilson's Black-caps, and 2 Traill's Flycatchers (one in full song).

Mourning W.

Alder Flycatcher

Another and longer walk taken in the early afternoon (to Davis's Hill and over Pine Ridge) added nothing of interest to the above list. Indeed it only served to further establish the fact that most of the northern migrants which were here yesterday continued on their way last night & that no additional birds came from the South to replace them. It is evident that the migration is fast drawing to a close. It has been in several respects the most remarkable spring movement that I have ever witnessed. In the first place it has been practically continuous from May to yesterday, there having been during this period no days when these country was not alive with birds. Their numbers on the best days have been briefly augmented & have attracted general attention & comment on the part of persons not ordinarily attentive to such matters. This unusual abundance has not been characteristic of a few species only but has been very general at least among the birds which breed further northward and especially among the northern-breeding Warblers. Almost the only exception to this which I can think of is in the case of the Solitary Vireo of which I have noted only one

Most of the north-bound migrants pass on. Migration nearly over. It is markedly heavy and protracted bird wave or succession of waves.

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 30

(No 2)

individuals.

Another marked feature of this remarkable flight has been the extreme boldness and tameness of many of its members. Birds ordinarily to be found only in deep woods have been seen in numbers in the towns & villages close about houses & on several occasions their utter farcicalness has been very striking.

Still another noteworthy fact has been the length of time which individual birds have remained on or near one spot as, for example, in front of the cabin here or in the Garden at Cambridge.

In the afternoon I visited and photographed the Nashville Warbler's nest found by C. yesterday. It is near the edge of the woods than I recalled when writing about it in this journal last evening but nevertheless it is essentially well out in a practically clear opening where the ground is covered with tufts of short, withered grass (*Alopecurus*). The ♀ was absent when I first approached it this afternoon but half-an-hour later I found her sitting. She slipped off when I was about 6 ft. away and flew directly into the woods where she chirped a little during the remainder of the time that I spent near the nest.

Balls Hill

Remarkable
flight of
Warblers.

They linger
unusually
long.

Nest of
Nashville
Warbler.

1900.

May 31

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill.

Cloudless with light W. to S.W. winds. Oppressively warm in the afternoon. Ther. 60°-83°/78° at 7.30 P.M.)

My observations to-day showed very conclusively that nearly all the northern bound migrants which were here yesterday left during the night and that no fresh arrivals came up from the South. Along the river front of Ball's Hill I found the adult 3 Mourning Warbler, 2 or 3 Water Thrushes, and 2 large Gray Chattered Thrushes; Behind the Hill a Black-bell Warbler singing, the only one met with during the day. The Canadian Warblers had wholly departed and I could find no Wilson's Black caps.

In the Baer's woods, which I visited at about 8 a.m., the only northern species noted was a Bay-breasted and a Blackburnian Warbler which were in full song not far from Purple Rock. As the Blackburnian usually breeds in these woods the one just mentioned was very likely settled for the summer. I not only heard but saw the Bay-breast, a fine old male.

In a cluster of raspberry bushes near the barn at the Baer's farm I found an Indigo Bird's nest with 2 eggs. The ♀ came into a tree near by & chirped at me & the ♂ sang a few times in the distance. All our local birds were singing freely from 7 to 9 a.m. and again towards evening. I heard 2 Brown Thrushes & 2 Field Sparrows in the morning.

Previous to this afternoon I have heard only one Bittern for two weeks or more. But from 4 P.M. to sunset to-day there were two, one in the usual place up river, the other nearly opposite the cabin.

North-bound
migrants
nearly all
gone.
Mourning W.
Alice's Thrushes

Bay breast W.

Indigo Birds
nest at
Farm.

Bitterns
singing

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 31
(No 2)

Visiting the Nashville Warbler's nest at 5 P. M.
I found her sitting. She permitted me to set up the camera within about 4 ft., put the focusing cloth over it, and made one exposure at the end of which she darted off into the woods flying directly from the nest. After she had gone I found a rather slender of about a foot in length lying in front of the nest within six inches of the entrance. The bird must have actually crushed him with her wings as she started to fly. He was too small to have injured her but he may have had designs on the eggs. The ♂ Nashville sings all day long on the chest & upper slopes of Ball's Hill but I never see or hear him nearer the nest than about 100 yards.

The warm weather of yesterday & to-day has brought out multitudes of dragon flies & a few mosquitoes. Green Frogs are thringing to night for the first time and the squawking summer cry of the Garden Larks is incessant & almost deafening. Bull Frogs have been thrumping for a week or more when the days have been warm.

Ball's Hill.

Nest of
Nashville
Warbler.

Dragon Flies
mosquitoes.
Green Frogs
Larks

Bull Frogs



Journal
1700
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